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Armenian, Azerbaijan Envoys Agree to 9 Apr Cease-Fire

LD0804140693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1337 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Sochi, 8 Apr—Representatives of the state leadership of Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed to cease fire in the conflict zone from 1200 hours [not further specified] on 9 April. On 13 April, it is planned to hold a meeting in Moscow at the level of prime ministers.

These accords were achieved in Sochi today as a result of talks between Vazgen Sarkisyan, Armenia's state minister for defense and security, and Panakh Guseynov, Azerbaijan's state secretary, with the mediation of Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

It is proposed that the heads of governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan, with the participation of their Russian colleague, will discuss and initial a draft agreement in Moscow on settling all painful issues, and will also prepare for a bilateral meeting at the highest state level. Pavel Grachev reported this to journalists at the end of the talks. The minister also said that talks took place at the request of the Azerbaijani side, and his participation as a mediator was sanctioned by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin.

Restoration of CIS States' Economic Ties 'Vital'

PM0704110893 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 1

[Aleksey Vasilyev report under the "Think For Yourselves, Decide For Yourselves" general heading: "Divorce CIS-Style Means That the Economy of the Independent States Is Plunging Ever Deeper Into a Quagmire of Crisis"]

[Text] A few days ago a famous scientist, talking about the economic difficulties in the CIS, made a not particularly original but nevertheless true comparison: The Soviet Union was a single organism and it was cut into pieces, and now the sovereign "arms" and "legs" are trying to act independently. But it is not working. Inhabitants of the former USSR republics are feeling this financially. It is also borne out by the facts. An analytical review by the "Reform" International Foundation recorded that "the situation in the social sphere in the majority of independent states has deteriorated sharply over the last year..." and "the general deterioration in the situation prompted by the economic crisis is intensified by the consequences of the collapse of the Union..."

The new independent state governments' expectations of large-scale involvement of foreign investment in their economies were not vindicated. "The lack of guarantees and protection for foreign investments, the deductions and restrictions which exist in the laws on foreign investments of nearly all states, and the unstable sociopolitical situation... make it unattractive for potential investors to pump money into the economies of former Union republics. Interest is shown merely in developing and tapping fuel, energy, and raw material resources."

The economic situation in the former Soviet republics deteriorated in the course of last year. Thus the volume of national income produced by comparison with the preceding year fell by 45 percent in Georgia, 42.6 percent in Armenia, 31 percent in Tajikistan, and 21.4 percent in Moldova. Apart from the new states where the sociopolitical situation can be described as extreme, Kyrgyzstan has also seen a sharp slump in production. The volume of national income produced there fell by 26 percent, while the volume of industrial output dropped by almost 27 percent, and that of foodstuffs by 56 percent.

The economies of Russia and Ukraine are also in the most difficult position. It is by no means coincidental that nongovernmental structures such as the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs have set themselves the task of starting to restore the destroyed economic links at enterprise and association level without waiting for the presidents and premiers to agree among themselves.

Departments too have become more compliant. Power, oil, and gas workers have drawn closer together. And a few days ago a meeting took place between leaders of the agricultural sectors of the countries of the CIS and the Transcaucasus.

These are all sensible, vital steps. Let the "democrats" shout from the rooftops about the danger of a "return to the totalitarian past." It is vital to continue to restore ruptured economic links. Together we will survive, but alone we may perish.

Polls Reflect Level of Support for Baltic Presidents

OW0704210893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1923 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 41% of Lithuania's resident positively assess the activity of President Algirdas Brazauskas, 14% - negatively, and 45% found it difficult to answer. The Public Opinion research Center, within the Lithuania's Institute of Philosophy, Sociology, and Law, received this data during an opinion poll of Lithuanian residents on March 23-29. Simultaneously Latvia (LSRC ltd.) and Estonia (EMOR ltd.) conducted analogous opinion polls.

51% of Latvia's residents positively assess activity of Chairman of Latvian Supreme Soviet Anatolijs Gorbunovs, 26% gave a negative answer and 23% experienced difficulties to answer this question.

38% of Estonian residents have trust in Estonian President Lennart Meri, 43% do not have trust in and 19% of the respondents found it difficult to answer.

40% of the respondents have approved the activity of the former Lithuanian Premier Bronislovas Lubys, 16% expressed a negative attitude, and 43% did not know what to say.

22% and 43% of the respondents support correspondingly the Latvian Premier Ivars Godmanis and Estonian Premier Mart Laar, 57% and 42% have negatively evaluated their activity. 22% in Latvia and 15% in Estonia experienced difficulties while answering this question.

26% of Lithuania's residents, 9% of Latvia's residents, and 37% of Estonia's residents have given their backing to their parliaments. 37% of the respondents in Lithuania, 71% - in Latvia, and 51% in Estonia have expressed a negative attitude.

According to the results of the opinion poll, 26% of Lithuanians, 9% of Latvians, and 40% of Estonians highly appreciate activity of their government. Correspondingly 20%, 71%, and 49% disagree with a positive assessment of their activity.

6% of Lithuanian citizens give a positive answer with respect to economic situation in the republic, and 84% - a negative one. In Latvia these numbers are correspondingly 5% and 74% and in Estonia 14% and 66% of the respondents.

19% of the Lithuanians, 10% of Latvians, and 15% of Estonians have said that economic situation of their families is good, correspondingly 67%,62%, and 58% negatively assess economic situation of their families.

23% of Latvian citizens trust in their financial savings, these numbers constitute 21% and only 2% correspondingly in Estonia and Lithuania.

74% of the respondents in Lithuania mainly have trust in the U.S. dollar, in Latvia and Estonia correspondingly 38% and 45%.

In Lithuania 9% believe in Deutsche Mark, correspondingly 4% in Latvia and 17% in Estonia stick to their opinion.

Shokhin Comments on Debt Rescheduling, Vancouver Summit

MK0704133493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Apr 93 p 11

[Anastasiya Romashkevich report: "Shokhin on Results of Paris Club Meeting. Russian Vice President in Optimistic Mood"]

[Text] Yesterday, 6 April, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin was in a cheerful mood speaking to journalists at a news conference on the results of the Paris Club meeting (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 3 April). The meeting agreed to the rescheduling of the former USSR's debt. At the request of journalists, Aleksandr Shokhin also commented on the results of the Vancouver summit and assessed the prospects for Russia's cooperation with the London Club and the International Monetary Fund [IMF].

Aleksandr Shokhin said that according to the document that was signed in Paris, Russia will have to pay $3.5 billion instead of $17 billion in 1993. The repayment of the balance was deferred for a period of 10 years, of which the first five years will constitute a so-called "grace period." A deferral until September 1993 for the repayment of the interest on the rescheduled debt has also been granted. Up to then, Russia expects to resolve the problem of the so-called "bad debts," i.e. those that can be categorized as both Russian and USSR debts. According to Shokhin, the optimal solution to the problem would be "to bring the debts on those credits into the rescheduling scheme."

What was called by Shokhin as another important achievement of the Paris meeting was the Paris Club's willingness to continue the rescheduling talks next year. Russia is to repay up to $13 billion in 1994-1995, which, according to the vice premier, is unrealistic. When asked whether the Paris Club decision was prompted by internal political tensions in Russia, Mr. Shokhin said that understanding was reached with the club "as early as two congresses ago." In addition, the creditors have grown "more realistic" and they understand that without a deferral no payments at all will be possible.

The vice premier noted that the debt rescheduling agreement was linked to the potential agreement with the IMF on granting a reserve loan to Russia. He drew the journalists' attention to the fact that the agreement was signed in Paris ahead of an IMF agreement, which was also a concession to Russia, because this is not in line with the club's practices. Under the debt rescheduling agreement, the issue of the IMF loan is to be resolved within the next six months. When asked by the journalists what will be the debt rescheduling's fate if no agreement with IMF is reached, Mr. Shokhin remarked that "the agreement with the Paris Club was not reached in order to shirk an agreement with IMF."

Aleksandr Shokhin was no less optimistic as he described the future of relations with the United States. Although the United States has not fleshed out its promises that all barriers blocking access of Russian goods to the U.S. market will be removed, "a momentum" has been gained, Shokhin said. As for Clinton's intention shown in Vancouver to resolve this issue, the vice premier is inclined to view it in the context of the Paris agreement and the upcoming G-7 summit in Tokyo on 14 April. In Mr. Shokhin's view, the West will devise in the near future a comprehensive "strategy to assist Russia."

In conclusion, the vice premier said that Russia has yet to resolve the problem of rescheduling the debts owed to the London Club—so far only a new 90-day deferral was obtained. Mr. Shokhin expressed his hope, however, that the matter would be resolved in the next few months, and that the London Club's terms would be as good as those granted in Paris.

'Absentmindedness' Leads to Potential 'Scandal'

PM0804102793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Scandal Caused By Russian Absentmindedness Nonetheless Did Not Prevent Formulation of Comprehensive Aid Program"]

[Text] Tokyo—Either just absentmindedness, or the fact that the Russian president's aides were overly carried away by a dinner in the company of the U.S. President in Vancouver, or both these factors almost caused a major international scandal that would have had every chance of ruining the atmosphere of the summit dialogue.

The situation was ultimately "straightened out without a fuss," but it took several official explanations by the U.S. State Department, personal telephone calls from the U.S. secretary of state to Tokyo, and other preventive measures through diplomatic channels.

The topic of the saga is ridiculously trivial—at the end of a dinner in which Yeltsin and Clinton took part seven typewritten pages—the Russian president's speech at the official function—were left under a napkin at the table where the two presidents were sitting: There were comments in ballpoint pen in Russian on the back of the last page, outlining the main ideas voiced by Clinton during the conversation, which were clearly not designed for the public at large. These comments via the waiters fell into the hands of a Canadian journalist who did not keep this find secret—the upshot was that a scandal began to unfold since, judging from the Russian notes, when speaking about Japan and the Japanese, Clinton advised Yeltsin to remember the difference in tradition and culture, which is, in particular, reflected in the fact that when the Japanese say "yes," that can actually mean "no."

Since the context of the phrase was omitted, Tokyo regarded this wording as an expression of mistrust in the Japanese and evidence of some behind-the-scenes intrigue against Japan at the meeting in Vancouver. Within a matter of hours after the television report about the "Russian comments" was aired, Tokyo demanded detailed explanations from Washington as to the crux of the matter, and a number of officials, including the head of the prime minister's office and the Japanese deputy foreign minister, issued brief statements that boiled down to the assertion that the Japanese and Japan do not have double standards.

The tone of the Japanese remarks left no doubt that Tokyo attached considerable importance to this incident, and the U.S. reaction was therefore swift—the U.S. secretary of state telephoned the Japanese Foreign Ministry and explained in detail that no one wanted to insult Japan, that Clinton had spoken only positively about Japan and in Japanese interests, and that the unfortunate phrase was simply taken out of context. In actual fact, according to the U.S. clarifications provided by State Department spokesmen, the situation was this: When Clinton conveyed to Yeltsin the content of his discussion with Miyazawa, he joked that the Japanese often say "yes" when they actually mean "no," although in this specific case there should be no doubt as to Miyazawa's expressed readiness to help Russia in conjunction with the other G-7 members, and Tokyo will keep its word.

Although one can make a rough guess, no one of course found out what the Americans thought about Russia, Yeltsin, and his absentminded team when all this long "explanatory session" was taking place. Nor has the provenance of the "Russian comments" been established either—Moscow has prudently kept quiet after this setback—but the most important thing is that Tokyo was satisfied with the assurances it received from Washington, and a public high-level statement was made to this effect in the Japanese capital. What is more, in order to gloss over the scandal Japanese government sources gave the press certain details regarding the "Russian package" to be formally made public next week during the Tokyo meeting of the G-7 foreign and finance ministers. The Japanese role in this package has been particularly highlighted and should underscore the Japanese "agreement" to aid for Russia.

According to Japanese information, the aid package will amount to something in the order of $30 billion, comprising the following components: the creation of a ruble stabilization fund ($6 billion), rescheduling of foreign debt payments ($15 billion), the formation of a fund to support the development of small and medium enterprises, the creation of a combined credit fund to meet the needs of the oil and gas industry, insurance of trade operations with Russia, and bilateral credits. The bulk of this package will come from European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank channels with the participation of national export-import banks. According to available information, the Japanese share of this package will top $2 billion.

Groups React to Results of Yeltsin-Clinton Summit

OW0704191293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1520 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, D. Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The opposition will launch a frantic campaign for smearing the Vancouver summit and belittling its importance, regardless of its results, said the coordinator of the parliamentary "Reform Coalition", Aleksey Surkov. The meeting between the presidents of Russia and the USA held on the threshold of the Russian referendum scheduled for April 25 served as "an additional vote of confidence in Yeltsin on the part of the world community", he told Interfax.

Surkov singled out the agreement on granting credits to the private sector in Russia, reached by participants in the summit. According to him, this will raise the Russian president's prestige in the eyes of entrepreneurs.

REPRESENTATIVE OF OPPOSITION SUSPECTS THAT CENTRAL ISSUE OF VANCOUVER SUMMIT WAS CONCEALED FROM PUBLIC

Ilya Konstantinov, a leader of the Russian Unity alliance of opposition fractions, believes that the central issue of the Vancouver summit was concealed from the world public. Commenting on the results of the talks between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton, he said that the two presidents had met to discuss the situation in Russia, Yeltsin's possible moves and the United States' attitude to them.

The tone of the final press conference suggested that Clinton gave Yeltsin guarantees of support whatever happens in Russia, said Konstantinov.

He described the US decision to extend $1.6 Bn [billion] to Russia as economic aid as a purely symbolic gesture. The rest of the talk about Russia's integration with the democratic international community and all-round cooperation was just a sophisticated garnish to the main course, said Konstantinov.

He also noted that the forthcoming referendum, whatever its outcome, would not have any legal consequences. No matter how the situation developed none of the conflicting parties would voluntarily resign, he said.

Russians 'Skeptical' About West's Large-Scale Aid

MK0704103093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No.15, 11 Apr 93 (signed to press 6 Apr) p B1

[Rustam Narzikulov report: "Boris Yeltsin's 'Price' Fell 15-Fold in Vancouver. They Continue To Give Him Money, Though"]

[Text] The summit of the Russian and U.S. Presidents on 3 and 4 April focused mostly on economic assistance matters.

The Vancouver summit is unlikely to overturn the Russians' skeptical attitude to Western credits and subsidies. It appears to have induced optimism only in Yeltsin, who spoke with exaltation at the final news conference about the money offered by Clinton. The Russian president acted as if he had forgotten his own pronouncement made as he was about to mount the steps of his plane before leaving for Canada. Yeltsin stated at that time that the only thing that may have any serious effect on the economy of a postcommunist country is investment of a totally different scale, for instance the 100 billion [currency not specified] annual investments by West Germany in the former GDR. Indeed, the average aid per capita to eastern Germany amounts to $6,000, but nonetheless the economy of the former GDR is still unable to overcome a disastrous production slump. Against the backdrop of West German injections, a total of $1.6 billion from the Clinton package, or $10.50 per individual Russian, looks more like a moral support for reform in Russia and Yeltsin himself. For instance, Russia pumps much more into the former Union republics in the form of technical credits (according to Boris Fedorov's estimates, 10 percent of Russia's GNP) and humanitarian aid.

It is no coincidence that a fresh surge of demonstrations of affection for Russian reforms by the United States occurred at the beginning of April. Clinton, having turned from a President-elect into an incumbent President, can afford to forget his election pledge to deal primarily with domestic problems of the U.S. economy. Thus, after it stayed aloof financially from the December confrontation between Yeltsin and the people's deputies (at that time America was more interested in the change of its own head of state), the United States has now decided to give its support to the Russian president. The lull in U.S. domestic policy appears to be a more significant reason behind Clinton's current activity than the referendum threatening Yeltsin on 25 April.

One cannot fail to notice the high level of skill of Clinton's aides, whose latest campaign in support of Yeltsin has fairly accurately reflected the changes that have occurred in Russia. In Russia, an organized opposition has emerged that openly lays claim to power. Therefore, the United States, following the logic of Clinton's advisers, should not give up the policy of personal preferences in that country, expressing its willingness to invest in a particular leader. At the same time, other profound changes reduce the burden of assistance for the donor states. The financial and monetary systems undergoing a process of evolution and the redistribution of property rights do not require the West to give such sweeping promises as before. At present it makes no sense to speak, as was done a year ago, about the aid package of $24 billion that makes the Russians nothing but chagrined. It makes no sense because even this amount would not save the Russians and because no one is going to give it at this time. Judging from Yeltsin's statement in Vancouver, he, too, has finally realized it: "I do not know when the $24 billion will come, maybe by the year 3,000." Yeltsin accepted the $1.6 billion provided that it is released soon—in this event he is ready to abandon "publicity-boosting, astronomical figures."

Thus, the changing situation in Russia has a dual effect on Western financial assistance, particularly that of the United States. On one hand, now it is cheaper to deal with Russia and Yeltsin because the need and opportunities for disproportionately exaggerating the actual amount of the assistance have faded away. On the other hand, Russia and Yeltsin are more expensive, since now it is specific money and specific projects that are at issue. Some amount, albeit not a very large one, will now have to be released.

Clinton's Attitude Toward Russia Viewed

MK0704104093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 15, 11 Apr 93 (Signed to Press 6 Apr) p A15

[Article by Dmitriy Yakushkin, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI special correspondent in Vancouver, published in "World and Us" column: "'These Are Not Christmas Presents,' Said Boris Yeltsin at a Joint Press Conference. The Entire Atmosphere of the Vancouver Meeting Was Basically Conditioned by the Search for an Answer to the Sole Question: How Necessary, Feasible and, Finally, Effective Is Western Aid to Russia?"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I am still inclined to think that Clinton has a basically different attitude toward Russia—compared with Bush, for example. He is not encumbered by the experience of rivalry with the USSR. On the other hand, being a man of the 'sixties' in the American sense of this expression (in other words, a man of liberal views), he possessed sufficient freedom to acquire from our culture what people of his generation liked. When he speaks about Russia, Clinton's intonation is different, and his speeches are surely written by other people. He ended the latest of these speeches—to newspaper editors in Annapolis—with a quotation from Akhmatova, even though this name rings no bell for 99.9 percent of Americans. Some experts even compare this pre-Vancouver speech, which was devoted to the U.S. current approach to Russia, in terms of its importance, with Churchill's Fulton speech—although, understandably, in reverse.

In Vancouver, at a special informal meeting, which Clinton organized separately for Russian journalists (an unprecedented and indicative occasion), I asked him to formulate the essence of his distinctly new perception of Russian reality. Tactfully, without challenging Bush's views and offering a candid comment on the origin of his vision of Russia, even recalling the strong impression that was produced on him in its time by Leonard Bernstein's orchestra's unusual, in terms of tempo, performance of Shostakovich's 5th Symphony in Moscow, Clinton showed his uninhibited human nature and also the ability to go beyond the official framework, which obviously had helped him considerably during his election campaign.

Despite the predictable and generally friendly atmosphere and the progress on many bilateral problems (in particular, as it seems, the deadlock over the issue of Russian uranium sales on the world market has been broken), it will not be possible to provide a realistic assessment of the Vancouver summit results until somewhat later—when the aid package has begun to be implemented.

Importantly, the popular comparison with Germany's spending billions on pulling the GDR out of the ditch is obviously misleading. Russia cannot and must not count on somebody else providing full financing. To reject scientific, technical, banking, entrepreneurial, and ecological expertise that the United States is offering, however, would be stupid. It is necessary to overcome the hypocritical attitude to this aid. One can be ashamed not of the fact that it is forthcoming, but that it is used unproductively.

Commentary on Clinton Approach to Russian Ties

MK0704115493 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian, No. 15, 7-13 Apr 93 (signed to press 6 Apr) pp 1, 8

[Andrey Sharyy commentary under the rubric "Let Us Think Together": "When Presidents Are on Chummy Terms"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The meeting between the Russian and American Presidents had not even begun, but its outcome was already clear. This is not because the numerous political scientists and forecasters were on the ball: The latest developments in our political and economic life leave the leaders of the two great powers too little room for maneuver. Russia has finally managed seriously to scare the West—the capitalists had just sat back and relaxed, forgetting how they used to be sweating in the "Red heat." The G-7 leaders have reined in their advisers who became mired in arguments about the most reliable methods of helping a young and hungry democracy. The sense of danger has finally engendered unity. [passage omitted]

Russia had long been hinting: It is time to move bilateral relations up to a new category. During the summit last summer in Washington, Andrey Kozyrev unveiled the formula "strategic cooperation" to describe what was happening in the Russo-American affairs, but a cautious George Bush would not rush: "partnership," "mutually advantageous cooperation" if you please, but not more than that.

A dynamic Clinton does not want to wait: members of the Congress, to say nothing about ordinary taxpayers, have greeted with much grumbling the news that aid to Russia is now going to be America's main national concern. There it is, the first result of the Yankees' noble policy: "strategic partnership" has been achieved.

A theoretical question: A citizen of which country would you like to be—a powerful dictatorship or a feeble democracy? The present generation of what are still Soviet people has had occasion to try both, and moreover, in plenty. The disadvantages of the first and the second variants proved so obvious that the new generation can only choose Pepsi. This rude historical awakening also tells on the minds of political leaders who have occasion to pride themselves on national greatness more often than they do to blush from national shame.

If one is to look at today's economic and political potentials of Russia and the United States with respect to time coordinates, the "strategic partners" are poles apart: In the 20th century, Washington has, perhaps, never been so strong, while Moscow, perhaps, has never been so weak. This is one reason, and, I think, not the least important reason for the sudden (by history's yardstick) tender friendship that has befallen us. The weak and poor do not chose their friends—in politics, at least, their fate is different: To accept aid without embarrassment, while saying that nobody will be able to help tomorrow those who will not help us today, and to take comfort in the fact that a two-year-old Russian democracy is on back-slapping terms with two-century-old American democracy.

Despite the age difference.

Cocom Restrictions Will Not Be Lifted Overnight

PM0704171593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 93 First Edition p 7

[Note "From the Editors": "Will Cocom Support the Intentions of Vancouver?"]

[Text] In the opinion of experts, the removal of the Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] restrictions announced in Vancouver should be viewed only as a statement of intent. The fact that this is the declaration of two presidents does not change things. Cocom is a very serious organization. It is impossible to exert direct pressure on it. Therefore it is impossible to lift the restrictions overnight. This is exactly the same process as the preparation of an arms reduction treaty, i.e. a long and detailed business. Technical experts sit down at the table and thoroughly examine and agree positions and prepare recommendations. Only after this are decisions made.

For all that, the Vancouver announcement is a serious declaration of serious intent. The restrictions can and will be removed. If not all of them, then some of them. Therefore it is in Russia's interests to establish businesslike cooperation with Cocom. This is the specific task in the short term.

U.S. Congressmen on Visit to Moscow

Yeltsin's Press Secretary Comments

LD0704152593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1217 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 7 Apr—President Boris Yeltsin has suggested that Russian citizens should answer in the affirmative all four questions on the 25 April referendum. [passage omitted] According to Mr. Yeltsin's press secretary, the president is planning several prereferendum tours inside the country, including to the Kuzbass and Yakutia.

Speaking to journalists today, Vyacheslav Kostikov stated that at the meeting with the visiting U.S. congressional delegation the president gave great attention to the results of the Russian-U.S. summit in Vancouver. Boris Yeltsin pointed out that the $1.6- billion package was just the first step. The second step would require allocations from the budget which must be approved by the U.S. Congress. That is why it is extremely important to raise awareness in the United States that "support for democratic reforms in Russia is, in fact, an investment in the future of both the Russian Federation and the United States," he went on to say.

The collapse of the reform or a political retrogression would have ramifications, including in the military field, that would require allocations incomparable in size with the aid which is now forthcoming.

Boris Yeltsin said he hoped that legal provisions which discriminate against Russia would be removed faster. Noting in passing that while abolishing some 300 existing Russia-related restrictions would take some time, he suggested that the Congress now declare its intent to lift these restrictions and then provide a legal backup to this routinely. Such a declaration of intent could give a serious impetus to expanding bilateral links right away.

It was stated in the course of the meeting today as well as at the Vancouver talks that Russia and the United States are two great powers, Vyacheslav Kostikov continued. Therefore we are talking here about dialogue, trust, and cooperation between two equal partners. As the president pointed out, it is extremely important to work out common basic approaches to world problems, for not a single problem of international security, not a single other global problem can be resolved now without the involvement of the Russian Federation or the United States.

The members of the U.S. delegation stated that they had no desire to intervene in the internal affairs of Russia, the presidential press secretary stated. They said the Russian people could decide for themselves what path they should choose and which reforms should be implemented. But we empathize with the reformist democratic Russia, which must and, we trust, will be strong, they said. Having voiced their support for the Russian reforms, the U.S. congressmen stressed that partnership with Russia is tantamount to investment in the future of the United States.

Delegation Meets With Yeltsin

OW0704163793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a Wednesday [7 April] reception in the Kremlin for a U.S. Congress delegation, Russian President Boris Yeltsin emphasized that the U.S. Congress played an important role in shaping relations between a new democratic Russia and American society. The Congress delegation is headed by House Democratic majority leader Richard Gephardt and House Republican minority leader Robert Michel.

Russian presidential press-secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov briefed the reporters on the hour-long talks between the President and the U.S. delegation. The meeting focused on the results of the Vancouver summit, said Kostikov. Yeltsin said, specifically, that the $1.6 billion economic aid package for Russia is but the very first step in the help-Russia campaign. President Clinton is its architect, and the resources mobilized at this stage are those the President himself can master. At a later stage the program will require the support of the Congress. The U.S. is likely to make "more substantial" efforts at that time, according to Yeltsin.

The Russian President gave high grades to the "Clinton package." Its funds, said Yeltsin, are real money, in stark contrast to the mythical $24 billion, an amount which, presumably intended for Russia, was much talked about in the world's financial circles but never materialized. Yeltsin said that support for Russian democratic reforms was an investment in the future of both Russia and of America herself because the collapse of Russian reforms would cause global repercussions. Its fallout would include a new climate of mistrust and an arms race that would be ruinous for all parties.

The President stressed that the Vancouver summit was a dialogue between two great powers, this dialogue being a key to working out common approaches to world problems, as it is the U.S. and Russia who largely determine the nature of such approaches.

Yeltsin said he would like the U.S. Congress to strike off numerous acts discriminating against Russia that were promulgated during the Cold War. He cited as an example, the 1959 Congress resolution concerning oppressed peoples. This resolution is still on the books though democratic Russia is no longer oppressing any other nations, said the President.

Yeltsin told the Congress delegation that he had handed over to Bill Clinton a list of such discriminatory acts which, said the Russian President, runs five pages long.

The Russian President said that getting rid of 300 obsolete acts overnight is a difficult job, but, he said, the Congress could declare an embargo on these acts, given that they have obviously outlived their usefulness. This step could provide powerful momentum for mutually beneficial trade between Russia and the U.S., said the Russian President. The removal of these restrictions, according to Yeltsin, could give Russia far bigger resources to stabilize the economy and carry out the reforms than it is capable of getting from the world community. The press-secretary cited Yeltsin as saying, "Russia needs now, not so much financial aid, though it should not be rejected either, as a normal working environment on the world markets." Yeltsin cited several areas in which Russia and the U.S.A. could work together as equal partners: the space and energy services market, the high-tech market and aircraft building.

Describing Russia's domestic situation, Yeltsin said that despite all the difficulties the reforms are encountering, the population is getting psychologically adjusted to the market. This is one of the achievements of the reforms which are still in their infancy.

Touching on preparation for the April 25 referendum, Yeltsin said that the Congress of People's Deputies managed to put three additional questions on the ballot. But, Yeltsin said, he "was not afraid of these questions, nor of an early presidential re- election." The President said that his campaign trail before the April 25 referendum would take him to a number of Russian regions. The first stopover on his itinerary will be the Kuzbass coal-mining region, East Siberia, and Yakutia, a vast Russian Federation republic, East Siberia.

Khasbulatov Holds Talks

LD0704133293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—There are no major political forces in Russia which want a communist comeback, according to Russian parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov. "If someone claims the contrary, this is a bluff", he said on Wednesday [7 April] while receiving a group of US congressmen.

Khasbulatov acknowledged that there is a threat to democratic reforms, but said that it comes from the Russian people. "The major danger for democratic transformations comes not from some pro- communist forces, but from the people themselves", he said, adding that "if we do not give hope to the people, do not make them participants in reforms, do not improve their situation, they will cease to believe us".

The Russian president enjoys bigger powers than his US counterpart, according to Khasbulatov, who added that contradictions among authorities in Russia emerged because there are no share-power traditions in the country.

Rutskoy Answers Questions

LD0704193693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1818 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Oleg Polovko]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—"No one in Russia doubts the necessity of economic reforms, but these reforms should lead not to mass impoverishment of people and the growth of death rate, collapse of the financial and credit-investment system, but to the improvement of the people's life," said Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy at a meeting with a delegation of U.S. congressmen in the Kremlin on Wednesday. Rutskoy outlined his view of the socio-political situation emerging in Russia and answered the congressmen's questions.

Rutskoy was surprised at the way some media interpreted his Tuesday's speech at a round-table meeting on economic problems. Clarifying his position, Rutskoy said he was not coming out for the revival of the former command-administrative system, but for making current economic processes and the progress of reform controllable.

Speaking about prospects for Russo-American relations, the vice- president emphasised that Russia sees them as a mutually advantageous cooperation between equal partners. In his words, such cooperation could manifest itself in housing construction, production of food stuffs and consumer goods, health care and medical service.

Further on Delgation's Talks

MK0804072093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Apr 93 p 9

[Anastasiya Romashkevich and Georgiy Bovt report under "U.S. Congressmen in Moscow" rubric: "Congressmen Mediate Between Moscow and Kiev"]

[Text] Yesterday a delegation of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress headed by Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic majority, and Bob Michel, the Republicans' leader, met with President Boris Yeltsin, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin. The congressmen had arrived in Moscow from Kiev, where they tried to persuade Ukraine to accelerate ratification of the START I Treaty. Although the declared aim of the visit is "familiarization with the course of the reforms," it is obvious that the U.S.

legislators intend to act as intermediaries in settling disputes between Moscow and Kiev over nuclear weapons.

In Kiev the congressmen voiced concern at the fact that Ukraine is delaying over ratifying both START I and the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons; thus, Kazakhstan has already ratified START I, and Belarus has ratified both documents. Assessing the talks in Kiev, Gephardt pointed out that Ukraine "confirmed its desire for nuclear-free status." Another result of the trip, Gephardt said, was the fact that the United States intends to examine Ukrainian problems "independently of Russia" and to take its position into consideration with regard to the financial aspect of disarmament.

Up to now Kiev had justified the delay over ratifying START I with reference to financial circumstances: The amount of aid to Ukraine under the law on assisting nuclear disarmament in the former USSR was set at $175 million (Belarus will be allocated no more than $73 million, and Kazakhstan $14.5 million). But Kiev is claiming more than $2 billion. Recently the political aspect predominated in the system of Kiev's "counter-arguments," and they began justifying the delay over START I with reference to the "lack of security guarantees" on Russia's part. So yesterday's statement by Leonid Kravchuk about the need for a meeting with Boris Yeltsin on problems of nuclear disarmament is obviously one result of the congressmen's "mediation."

At his meeting with Boris Yeltsin yesterday Gephardt supported the idea of large-scale aid for Russia—moreover, in larger volumes than Clinton has promised. Yeltsin once again raised the question of abolishing discrimination against Russia in trade.

The Supreme Soviet reported that the congressmen's meeting with Ruslan Khasbulatov was of a "semiprotocol nature": The speaker shared his view of the political situation in Russia. The same thing was also discussed at the meeting with Valeriy Zorkin. The second day of the visit, when the congressmen will call on the parliamentary International Affairs Committee, will be devoted to more practical issues, namely the prospects for ratifying START II.

Zorkin Meets Congressmen

LD0704170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1619 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Chief constitutional justice Valeriy Zorkin believes a new Russian constitution should not be adopted in the current situation.

The adoption of "a new and better constitution will never do any harm, but the question arises - when and at what price?", he told a group of visiting US congressmen on Wednesday.

"In conditions when Russian society is hit with a deep conflict, won't the issue of a new constitution add oil to the fire? Won't we get a civil war instead of a new constitution?", he asked rhetorically.

Zorkin disagreed that Russia is currently living according to the "Brezhnev Constitution" adopted during the rule of former communist leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Acting Constitution contains all basic principles which are characteristic of constitutions of all civilised states", he said, but admitted that there are also "rudiments testifying to its origin".

Zorkin said it is more important now to observe acting Constitution than to call for the adoption of a new one. "The main task for the people is to learn and live according to the Constitution. If we do not learn the art no ideal texts will help us", he said.

The chief justice categorically opposes statements claiming that acting Constitution is "unconstitutional". Those who say that "not only step outside the Constitution, but free other people from the oath. Until people respect the Constitution they are ready to live on the basis of a compromise", he said.

Any constitution is the fruit of a compromise. "Conflicts cannot be solved by force. If we forget the principle Karabakh will move to Moscow", Zorkin warned.

Dimensions of Aid 'Unlikely' To Be Announced at G-7 Meeting

OW0704183493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, D. Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The concrete dimensions of aid are unlikely to be announced" at the special G-7 conference on assistance to Russia to be held in Tokyo on April 14-15, a high-ranking official from Russia's Foreign Ministry told Interfax's correspondent on Wednesday [7 April]. He will be a member of the Russian delegation.

According to the diplomat, Moscow's task is to gain "political understanding on the concrete directions of aid to Russia" with the leading industrialized countries, and "reach a final agreement on the dimensions of aid" in July, when the G-7 convenes for its summit with the participation of President Boris Yeltsin in Japan.

On April 14-15 the Russian delegation will discuss "the concept of an aid program", which it wants to be large in scope, strategic in perspective and viewed as a program of partnership, not simply aid". At the same time the Foreign Ministry official made it clear that Moscow will not be disappointed, should the G-7 decide to give Russia aid amounting to about 30 billion dollars.

Interfax's interviewee placed Russia's priorities as follows:

FIRST: "The main thing is to create equitable conditions for Russian foreign trade," he said. According to him, this isn't an easy task, since the interests of very big Western companies will be involved. Besides, the G-7 countries will have to do a complicated legal and technical job to eliminate such "cold-war vestiges", as, say, the Jackson-Vannick amendment in force in the USA. For Russia, however, normal access to world markets is of "fundamental importance", since in real terms it will yield dozens of billions of dollars". "It's hard to accomplish this task quickly, but it has to be accomplished," the diplomat said.

SECOND: There is a need to persuade the G-7 countries to exert influence on the leadership of the International Monetary Fund with a view to inducing it to sign with Russia an agreement similar to the one signed in 1992 between Moscow and the IMF not long before the G-7 summit in Munich. "It's not only ourselves who must get adjusted to the IMF demands," the Russian diplomat said. "The IMF should also grasp the uniqueness of our situation and think dialectically, not metaphysically". According to him, "it wouldn't be bad for Russia to obtain from the IMF the remaining three billions of the reserve credit".

THIRD: It's support for small and medium-size businesses. "If we manage to receive about two hundred million dollars, with the presence of a clear-cut mechanism for distributing these funds (for this purpose a special fund could be formed, say, with the participation of the European Fund for Reconstruction and Development), the effect would be great," the diplomat stressed.

FOURTH: We need investment credits to promote the industries that generate hard currency revenues.

FIFTH: The G-7's approval of measures designed to ensure social support for reforms in Russia.

Shevardnadze Invites Grachev To Visit Tbilisi

LD0704171693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, who heads the Georgian delegation at the Sochi talks, told a RIA correspondent over the phone that Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, head of the Russian delegation, has been handed an invitation from Eduard Shevardnadze to visit Tbilisi.

Grachev Not To Meet Shevardnadze

OW0804113493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister and leader of the Russian delegation at the Russo-Georgian talks in Sochi, has said "the central military and political issue has not been settled".

He told journalists on Thursday [8 April] that by the evening of April 8 the two delegations' experts should have drafted a joint resolution on the Abkhazian issue. Meanwhile, Grachev said, there were two different drafts. The Russian one was called "On Ceasefire and the Transitional Cooling-off Period", while the Georgian one was entitled "On Ceasefire in the Zone of the Abkhazian Conflict and on the Beginning of the Transitional Period of Peaceful Settlement of the Confrontation".

"Russia cannot accept the Georgian draft because it lays entire responsibility on Russia, relieves Georgia of any responsibility, an does not say a word about the third party, Abkhazia," he said.

He also announced that he had not yet accepted Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's invitation to visit Tbilisi. "With the main military-political issue remaining unsettled there is no need to meet Eduard Shevardnadze," he said.

He said that all 13 financial and economic issues had been settled in Sochi, including those concerning trade and economic cooperation, credit to Georgia and free trade. The minister pointed out, however, that the economic agreements could be signed only after the conclusion of a political agreement.

Grachev Cited on Georgia Conflict

PM0804103793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts and Vladimir Maryukha: "Moratorium Declared on Combat Actions in Georgia. But the Fighting Goes On"]

[Excerpts] The Russo-Georgian intergovernmental talks have continued in Sochi since 10am yesterday. [passage omitted]

Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister and head of the Russian delegation, noted in conversation with your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent that Russia has always attached great significance to good neighborly relations with Georgia and has always supported its territorial integrity. However, the minister stressed, reliable and effective guarantees of the autonomy of the Abkhazian and South Ossetian peoples must be observed here. The Russian delegation remains committed to this position during the talks.

According to Pavel Grachev, the root of the evil and the main cause of the present aggravation of Russo-Georgian relations lies in the unresolved Abkhazian conflict. The Russian side is concerned by the fact that the plans for the settlement of the conflict presented by the Georgian delegation effectively exclude Russia as an intermediary in resolving the problems that have built up. Georgia is relying on the UN forces although that is clearly insufficient to create the preconditions for civilized dialogue. First and foremost it is necessary to end the armed confrontation and establish a "cooling off period" because the warring sides have gone too far in their mutual recrimination.

The head of the Russian delegation proposed that a cease-fire be established immediately for the duration of the talks in areas where the warring sides are in contact. The Georgian delegation accepted that proposal. However, Dzhaba Ioseliani, leader of the "Mkhedrioni" armed formations and a member of the delegation, demanded guarantees from the Russian side that the Abkhazian side support the proposal too.

Of course Russia cannot give such guarantees although it was stated at the talks that the Russian side will promote the cease fire. Then this question was soon resolved.

There is another important factor here. The Russian troops stationed in the conflict zone are continuing to observe neutrality. The Georgian side's attempts to embroil them in the armed confrontation and the propaganda campaign aimed at convincing the world community that the Russians are "conniving" with the Abkhazians and giving them armed support must ultimately yield to common sense. That is why Pavel Grachev believes that one of his tasks is to persuade the Georgian side that the troops, who have been ordered to observe neutrality, have not interfered and will not interfere in the conflict on anyone's side. They are not only under intense psychological pressure here but are also being subjected to barbaric shelling by the Georgian side and are suffering irreparable losses. The latest victim is Major Yuriy Boblikov, who was shot near the village of Varga.

The fact that the Russo-Georgian talks are taking place inspires the hope that all this can be stopped, as does the fact that before the talks began the Georgian parliament rejected a draft decree proposed by a number of parties who demanded in peremptory fashion that the Russian troops be withdrawn from the conflict zone. Now it is necessary to back up the progress that has been made by the normalization of Russo-Georgian relations, determine in a civilized manner the status of the Russian troops in Georgia and Abkhazia, and agree on the timetable for their withdrawal and the establishment of a normal state border between the two neighboring states. [passage omitted]

Grachev, Georgia's Sigua Interviewed on Talks

LD0704213793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report on interviews with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev by correspondent Arkadiy Melkonyan, and Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua by correspondent Aleksandr Barkhatov held in Sochi on 7 April; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today may undoubtedly be considered a turning point in Russian-Georgian talks, although agreement was not reached on all questions. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said that Russian troops will remain in Georgia until 1995, and a decision was adopted on the withdrawal of Georgian and Abkhazian troops 3 km from one another. This is reported by news agencies, but here is more detailed information from our special correspondents who were on the spot.

[Video shows Melkonyan interviewing Grachev] [Melkonyan] The optimism of the economists at the talks is, perhaps, unrivaled. The wishes of the sides have been rather fully taken into account in the draft documents inasmuch as Georgia has been deprived of its traditional supplies of fuel, machine-building products, and vital Russian credits. Russia's interest is also indisputable in, say, resuming the import of manganese ores, about 70 percent of which Russia has always received from Georgia, but...

[Grachev, interrupting] The economy cannot move forward unless the military question is solved.

[Melkonyan] In these main military-political problems the success of the talks behind closed doors is clearly taking turns with deadlocks.

[Video shows Barkhatov interviewing Sigua] [Barkhatov] What version is acceptable to your country regarding the presence of Russian troops in Georgia?

[Sigua] Well, a document has been prepared, it has almost been agreed, with the deadline for the stay of Russian military formations on Georgian territory is fixed for 31 December 1995.

[Video switches to interview with Grachev] [Grachev] Time will tell how our troops will be deployed after 1995.

[Video switches back to interview with Sigua] [Barkhatov] The question of the Russian unit protecting the space laboratory, which is situated literally along the firing line of the Georgian and Abkhazian formations, has become unexpectedly poignant and virtually the main one.

[Sigua] We believe that this unit is there with a provocative object because one way or another shells are always hitting the front line, and it is not ruled out that Russian officers and men there may be wounded or killed.

[Video switches to interview with Grachev] [Grachev] We are insisting that our troops there must be protected.

[Video switches back to interview with Sigua] [Barkhatov] Summing up what happened today, it is too early to speak about the sides' readiness for a possible early meeting at the level of heads of state to sign all-embracing treaties, but it is hardly necessary to dramatize the situation.

[Sigua] Even yesterday, at the first plenary session, it was revealed that the situation has been cleared up on many questions and a certain rapprochement can definitely be seen.

General Comments on Troops

LD0704202993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1847 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Sochi April 7 TASS—"The terms of the stay of Russian troops in Georgia should not be the subject of Russo-Georgian talks, said Colonel-General Aleksandr Galkin, head of the main armoured troops department of the Russian Armed Forces, who is taking part in the talks underway in Sochi.

"We believe that this problem has been resolved by the Moscow document of September 3, 1992. In keeping with this document, Russian troops will stay on the territory of Georgia until December 31, 1995," the general said.

He said that during the talks the sides will have to coordinate positions on problems pertaining to the regime of guarding the border in the area of the Psou River and the future of the seismic laboratory of the Russian Armed Forces in the area of Esheri.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov told journalists that during the talks the question of the Abkhazian delegation's participating in the talks was not raised.

"Of course, it would be naive to hope for the settlement of the conflict without the participation of one of the parties involved. But we believe it would be more constructive to find common approaches to the settlement and discuss them with Abkhazian representatives," Pastukhov said.

In his opinion, it would be impossible to implement even the most unique plans without the participation of Abkhazian representatives.

The talks will continue on Thursday [8 April].

Negotiations Continue in Sochi

OW0704201093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1920 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [7 April], Boris Pastukhov, deputy Russian Foreign Minister, declared that "the Russian Federation, a mediator to settle the conflict in Abkhazia, should not lose this significant role." In Pastukhov's opinion, it is too naive to hope for solution of this conflict without one of the participating parties (the Abkhazians - Interfax). At the same time it is expedient, Pastukhov said, to primarily find approaches to settle the situation between Russia and Georgia and then to discuss these approaches with the Abkhazian party. The top-ranking diplomat had a conversation with journalist in Sochi where the Russian-Georgian negotiations are underway.

Colonel General Aleksandr Galkin, representative of Russian Defense ministry, declared that on April 7 both parties proposed to discuss their variants to settle the Abkhazian conflict. On Friday the working groups will continue discussing them. In Galkin's words, there are two major disputable issues, namely on staying of Russian servicemen on the territory of the military laboratory in Esheri and on guarding regime to be imposed on the border between Russia and Georgia along the Psou river. Colonel General believes that it is impossible to solve the border issue without the Abkhazian party.

Galkin proposed to return to the issue on creation of a control commission in order to disengage the forces of the warring parties and to form supervision posts with the participation of the U.N. representatives.

Colonel General believes that it is necessary to cease fire before signing a military treaty on friendship and cooperation between Russia and Georgia. "Conflict problems can be solved only in a peaceful atmosphere," he said.

Accord Reached 'in Principle'

LD0804091993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The Russian and Georgian delegations to the talks in Sochi last night reached agreement in principle on the withdrawal of the Russian paratroopers from the territory of the military laboratory in the village of Nizhnyaya Esheri near Sukhumi.

This was stated in an interview to Georgian Radio this morning by the head of the Georgian delegation, Republic Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, the INTERFAX agency reports. The Georgian prime minister said that, at the request of the Georgian delegation, at the talks today there will be discussion on the questions of Georgian-Russian units taking control of the border between Georgia and Russia along the Psou River and the admission of observers from Georgia and international organizations to the Russian military airfield near Gudauta.

The RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY in turn reports that the talks are reaching a deadlock on the majority of questions under discussion in Sochi because the Abkhaz side is not present at the meeting. Boris Pastukhov, Russian deputy minister of foreign affairs, told the RIA correspondent, among other things, that without the Abkhaz side we will not manage to resolve the problems connected with the conflict in Abkhazia.

Delegations 'Failed To Agree'

LD0804110293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 8 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 8 Apr—The Russian and Georgian delegations have so far failed to agree on their positions on the central military and political package of documents at the talks in Sochi.

Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, told journalists after today's morning sitting that the draft agreement on a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia submitted by the Georgian side "is unacceptable to Russia for the time being." In his view, the main obligations to implement the agreement "are placed on the Russian side, the Georgian side takes practically no responsibility, while the third side, Abkhazia, is not mentioned at all."

Experts are now working toward a compromise. "If the military and political issue is not solved," Pavel Grachev said, "there is no need for me to meet with Mr. Shevardnadze at the current stage." "In this case we will state the fact that talks on the most topical issues have been held and should be continued at some other time," he noted.

An agreement in principle was attained at the talks on giving Russian humanitarian aid to the Abkhazian areas that have suffered most.

Soldiers To Be Removed From Lab

OW0804113193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has agreed to remove its soldiers from the premises of a military seismological laboratory in Esheri, near the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi. An agreement to that effect was reached by a Russian and Georgian delegations in Sochi in the early hours of Thursday [8 April], Georgian Prime Minister Tenghiz Sigua told Georgian radio Thursday morning.

He said that on Thursday the delegations would discuss, at the Georgians' request, the patrolling of the section of the Russian- Georgian border along the Psou River by Georgian and Russian troops and the possibility of allowing observers from Georgia and international organizations access to the Russian military airfield near Gudauta.

Sigua said Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives would arrive in Sochi on Thursday to discuss with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev ways of settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This might entail changes in the schedule for the Russian-Georgian talks, Sigua said.

The Azerbaijani president's press service told Interfax that Azerbaijan would be represented in Sochi by Defense Minister Dadash Rzayev and a group of experts.

Pakistani President Receives Kozyrev in Islamabad

LD0704172393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1555 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Islamabad, 7 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today received Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, who is here on an official visit.

During the conversation there was an exchange of opinions on problems of bilateral Russian-Pakistani relations and topical regional and international questions. Welcoming the Russian guest, the Pakistani president noted the traditionally friendly nature of relations between the two states. Back in the old days of the Soviet Union all prestigious construction sites in Pakistan were implemented with friendly Soviet assistance. He expressed hope that the arrival of the Russian delegation will open a new page in relations between the two countries.

Talks took place today between Andrey Kozyrev and Mohammad Siddiq Khan Kanjo, Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs.

It is expected that the Pakistani prime minister will undertake to make a special appeal for the release of all former Soviet prisoners of war in Afghanistan. If it were not for the present tense situation in the region, a Pakistan spokesman noted, it would right now have been possible to release a few Soviet prisoners of war. Pakistan has set up a special working group on this matter and has drawn up new lists of prisoners of war.

The official part of the visit ends today. Tomorrow the Russian minister will leave by air for Lahore and later the same day for Dushanbe (Tajikistan).

Document on Cooperation Initialed

LD0704181993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] A political document which lays down fundamental principles of relations and cooperation between Russia and Pakistan was initialled in Islamabad today. It is envisaged that the initialled document will be signed in Moscow during the forthcoming visit of Pakistan's prime minister.

Kozyrev To Leave for Dushanbe

LD0804054193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0330 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will today complete his visit to Pakistan and arrive in Dushanbe for a working visit. The Press Center of the Tajikistan Ministry of Foreign Affiars has made it known that the minister will acquaint himself with the operational situation on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. A meeting is planned with Imomali Rahmonov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet.

The visit is, let us put it this way, special, and it is not by chance that it begins with Tajikistan, because at the moment, this is the most painful spot in the region. The civil war has still not disappeared. As we know, previously the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border was guarded only by Russian soldiers. However, in accordance with a decision adopted by the CIS leaders, sub-units from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan have been sent there, besides which, the idea of setting up joint peacekeeping forces is being developed. The Russian minister for foreign affairs will discuss this idea not only in Dushanbe, but also in Tashkent and Ashkhabad, where he will be on 9 April. The issue of economic cooperation will hold a noticeable place in the agenda. In other words, coordination of efforts by Russia and Central Asian countries in tackling military, political, and economic tasks will be discussed.

Army Commander Says Troops Must Stay in Dniester

LD0704172493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The 14th Russian Army must remain in the Dniester region. Such a categorical statement was made today by Lieutenant- General Aleksandr Lebed, the Army commander, in an interview to Moldavian National Radio.

In his view this is essential in order to stabilize the sociopolitical situation in the region and to create elementary conditions for the withdrawal of Russian troops. Lebed also stressed the importance of people's [narodnoy] diplomacy and the efforts of peacemaking organizations in establishing contacts between the opposing sides and normalizing the situation in the Dniester region.

Foreign Ministry Supports UN Demand on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0704190893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1758 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry fully supports the demand of the U.N. Security Council to immediately cease all military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh posing a threat to peace and security in the region and withdraw all forces involved.

A negotiating process in the CSCE framework has yielded the first constructive results and it is necessary to make all possible efforts to ensure a political settlement of the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh and immediately stop the bloodshed.

On April 6, the U.N. Security Council approved a statement by the chairman of the Council in connection with the escalation of hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The statement contains a demand to immediately cease military operations in the Kelbadzhar region of Azerbaijan.

The U.N. Security Council has confirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states of the region and the inviolability of their borders. Having declared its support of the peace process in the CSCE framework, the Security Council expressed hope that a preliminary agreement recently achieved by the Minsk group will be followed by an agreement on a ceasefire, calendar of stationing observers, a draft of a political declaration and the convocation of a Minsk conference.

The Security Council has insistently called on all sides to take necessary measures for the progress of the peace process in the CSCE framework and refrain from all actions impeding the political settlement of the problem.

The statement contains an appeal to ensure unimpeded international activities on providing humanitarian aid to the region and, in particular, to regions affected by the conflict in order to alleviate hardships suffered by the civilian population, the statement said.

Turkish Position Viewed

OW0704181793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A senior official at the Russian Foreign Ministry has expressed perplexity with what he described as excessively emotional statements about the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict made by Turkish President Turgut Ozal, "at least in the form they were presented by the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet." The paper reported that Ozal, talking to reporters on his way to Tashkent, had accused Russia of backing up Armenia and said, "We should not avoid military interference. We must show our teeth." Commenting on the report, the Foreign Ministry official, who did not want to be identified, said such statements could not be neglected since they could revive old fears in the states of the region. Such attempts to flex one's muscle might impede the settlement of the conflict and serve to escalate it, he said.

The official expressed the hope that the conflicting parties would show restraint and sober-mindedness so essential at the present moment, while the neighboring states would maintain complete impartiality and objectivity and do whatever was necessary to help the belligerents make compromises.

Commentary on Iranian Stance

NC0804070193 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian 1330 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Vladimir Pronin commentary]

[Text] Iran has reacted strongly to reports on the escalating and expanding Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement says: Iran is deeply concerned about the escalating conflict and the killing of civilians and calls for Armenia to withdraw its armed forces from the occupied areas. Radio Moscow commentator Vladimir Pronin says the following:

As we know, since the beginning of the armed conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, officials in Tehran have voiced support for a peaceful solution. Last May it appeared as if Tehran's mediation efforts would succeed. The leaders of the conflicting sides met in Tehran and signed an agreement on a phased solution to the Karabakh conflict. This agreement referred to a cease-fire, the simultaneous opening of communications channels, ending the economic siege, sending international observers to the crisis area, exchanging prisoners of war, and a bilateral solution to the refugees problem. Before the ink had dried on the document, however, armed clashes erupted with fresh violence.

Nevertheless, Iran continued its efforts for a just solution to the conflict through bilateral negotiations and within the framework of preparations for the CSCE conference in Minsk on Nagorno- Karabakh. This topic also was discussed during a recent visit to Tehran by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and the two sides agreed on the need to continue searching for peace, even though facts show that in Yerevan and Moscow, the principled stance of Moscow and Tehran again was ignored. [sentence as heard]

Tehran wants to blame Armenia for the current military flare-up in the disputed area, as a result of which the Armenians have occupied a considerable portion of Azerbaijani territory. Even though the statement by Iran's Foreign Ministry is harshly worded, nevertheless it is calculated. Iran's major newspapers, however, have adopted a strongly anti-Armenian stance. Tehran Radio has stated that not only the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, but the entire Caucasus area and neighboring countries are threatened and that the danger of interference by third countries also exists.

We want to recall that when explaining the reasons for the failure of Tehran's first peace mission, the Iranian press referred to the third-country theory.

Facts show that there are forces in Iran that do not oppose a more active participation in the armed conflict, but as proven by many years of experience, efforts to solve the Karabakh problem militarily will lead nowhere. Only a cease-fire and resuming the negotiations process can reestablish peace in the Transcaucasus. Tehran understands this reality very well, but it is not clear when the capitals of the conflicting sides will understand it.

Government Begins New Round of Talks With Estonia

OW0704012293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1713 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Military issues will be the main theme on the agenda of a fresh round of talks between Russia and Estonia starting outside Moscow on Tuesday [6 April], a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Baltfax.

He said the two sides would continue work over draft agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops and social security nets for active and retired servicemen and their dependants.

The diplomat spoke of no marked progress in the talks in recent time saying that Estonia was seeking new amendments to the agreements whose wording was 90 percent ready. My impression is that our counterparts are trying to delay them, he said.

The Russian diplomat does not share Estonian fears that Russian military presence in that country poses any serious threat.

Russia claims deploying an estimated 7,000 troops in Estonia, but Estonia puts Russia's strength at 5,600.

Talks Termed 'Constructive'

LD0704170593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1528 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Apr—Vasiliy Svirin, head of the Russian delegation, described the tenth round of the Russian-Estonian talks which ended today "constructive, but not easy." Juri Luik, head of the Estonian delegation, gave an equally ambivalent assessment; in his opinion the results can be described as "positive" with a certain degree of caution.

At the final news conference it was reported that at the center of attention was the draft documents defining the conditions for the stay of Russian troops in Estonia, the procedure and timetable for their withdrawal, the future of military property, and questions of compensation for the damage caused to the Estonian economy.

The Estonian delegation arrived at the talks "with serious doubts," in the words of its head. Its attitude had been obviously affected by the statement in Brussels by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev on halting troop withdrawal from the Baltics and by President Boris Yeltsin's speech in Vancouver concerning the protection of rights of the Russophone population in the Baltics.

Nevertheless, the Russian delegation succeeded in persuading its Estonian counterparts that talks would continue and troops withdrawal would go on. Svirin said that "withdrawal of troops was being effected consistently." As of 1 March 1993, only 7,600 Russian servicemen remained on the territory of Estonia (as compared with 35,000 at the beginning of 1991), together with 27 tanks, 186 APCs, 27 planes, 13 ships, and three motor-launches.

In the course of the talks the situation of the Russophone population on Estonia's territory was also discussed. "Here we disagreed with the Estonian delegation," Svirin stated. He said that the recent statements by Yeltsin and Grachev "reflected concern at the position of discrimination in which the Russophone population finds itself in Estonia." "This issue is creating very great complications in our relations and we would like to jointly look for a way out," the Russian diplomat stressed.

The positions of the sides regarding issues of economic relations appeared closer. Draft agreements on the mutual protection of investments and on trade and economic relations were discussed. Luik pointed out the need for an agreement on a temporary most- favored-nation status in trade between both countries. He said that the Estonian side intends to propose to Russia the conclusion of an agreement on the use of Estonia's ports in the interests of the development of trade.

Agreement Reached on Trade

OW0704222493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1719 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the negotiations held in the vicinity of Moscow on April 6-7, the state delegations of Russia and Estonia reached an agreement on an interim regime during which the two countries are to be most-favored trade partners. The agreement was announced by Vasiliy Svirin and Juri Luik, heads of Russian and Estonian delegations correspondingly, at a press conference on Wednesday [7 April].

According to the head of the Russian delegation, the negotiations were "constructive and difficult at the same time." The Russian diplomat also reported that the discussion of a draft agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops and provisions of their interim stay on Estonia's territory "is at its final stage: the delegations are to agree on the time for the forces' withdrawal, issues on the army's real estate," and the issues concerning the ecological damage inflicted by the Russian army to Estonia.

Svirin emphasized that "irrespective of everything" the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Estonia is underway. He presented figures stating that currently 7,600 servicemen, 27 tanks, 186 armored vehicles, 166 APCs, 27 aircraft, 13 ships, and 3 boats are still on the territory of this Baltic state. At the same time, the Ambassador does not know if the 144th Motor Rifle Division, which is partially deployed in Tallinn, will be withdrawn from the Estonian capital by the end of the year.

Responding to our Baltfax correspondent on whether the Russian delegation connected the issue of troop withdrawal with the national-minorities' issue, Luik declared, that he has not noticed such a connection at the negotiations, besides, "such a connection would hinder a solution of the existing problems." When asked, if this means that the position of the Russian delegation does not coincide with the positions of the country's President and Defense Minister, Svirin said that "his delegation is acting on the basis of instructions received from the President." Raul Malk, leader of the Estonian delegation on border issues, explained to Baltfax that principal agreements on troop withdrawal "should be adopted at the highest level" and the delegations "are acting in the framework of authority granted to them and are primarily busy with coordination of technical issues and it is illegal to directly connect statements of Russia's leaders and delegation's tactics of behavior." Next round of interstate negotiations is scheduled for May 6-7 in Lohusalu, Estonia.

Defense Ministry Denounces Black Sea Fleet Accord

LD0704150093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—According to a Russian Black Sea Fleet press centre statement communicated to ITAR-TASS today, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry statement issued on March 31 can be regarded as an "attempt to repudiate the president of Ukraine, commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Leonid Kravchuk's signature under the Yalta agreement."

The Ukrainian military department statement noted that the "Defence Ministry of Ukraine will now study numerous proposals regarding the preparation of an appeal to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine about the possibility of considering suspending the Yalta agreement concluded on August 3, 1992."

The Black Sea Fleet press centre statement notes that under such circumstances when foreign political departments and interstate delegations of the two countries are working painstakingly over the determination of the status during the transition period and the mechanism for dividing the Black Sea Fleet, the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence "is making an assesment beyond its competence." Such actions "can rouse national hatred in the Fleet, cause moral and material harm to states, and virtually remove the Black Sea Fleet from the talks."

"The Black Sea Fleet command possesses interstate status, its powers are confirmed by the presidents of the two countries, and the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence's aspirations to actively influence interstate processes and participate in framing the course of foreign policy, what is considered to be the prerogative of the Ministry of Defence, is causing surprise," the Black Sea Fleet press centre statment emphasised.

Ukraine Stance on START Seen Hinging on Referendum Results

MK0704120293 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Apr 93 p 12

[Oleg Medvedev article: "The Pace of Ukraine's Progress Toward Nonnuclear Status Depends on Internal Political Situation in Russia"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] In response to the statement of the Russian Government on nuclear weapons on Ukraine's territory (as reported by KOMMERSANT-DAILY yesterday) the press service of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on 6 April circulated a document accusing Russia of "distorting Ukraine's positions" and leveling unsubstantiated charges against it. "Contrary to the assertion of the Russian Government, up to now the Ukrainian leadership has not made any statements that would testify to a departure from the intention proclaimed by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to acquire nonnuclear status in the future," the Ukrainian statement says. This question is now being considered in Ukraine's parliament. The actual term for the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons from the territory of Ukraine with the aim of their subsequent dismantling and destruction will be determined by a whole number of factors, not least of them the completion of corresponding Russo-Ukrainian talks (KOMMERSANT-DAILY wrote in detail 24 December 1992 about Ukraine's stance on the nuclear disarmament issue). KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts believe that the pace of Ukraine's movement toward nuclear-free status directly depends on the internal political situation in Russia. Oleg Medvedev comments on the situation.

Obviously, Kiev is well aware of the fact that Ukraine's emergence as a nuclear state will upset the balance of forces in the world, one of whose basic principles is precisely the principle of nonproliferation. While voluntarily giving up the world's third largest nuclear capacity, however, Kiev would like to get in exchange unconditional and unequivocal guarantees of security from the nuclear powers, primarily Russia. It is this problem, and not economic and technical problems, that take on key importance in defining the pace of Ukraine's progress toward nonnuclear status. Ukraine understands security guarantees not so much as the obligation not to subject it to a nuclear attack (hardly anybody in Ukraine believes in the possibility of such an attack coming from Russia) or the provision for Ukraine, in case of need, of a "nuclear umbrella," as the guarantees of the inviolability of Ukraine's borders, codified in international treaties. In other words, Ukraine would like to be confident that it will not have to use nuclear weapons as a deterrent. The options proposed by the Russian side at present, as KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned, do not satisfy Ukraine since they are based on the premise of its membership in the CIS and guarantee the integrity of its borders as established within the framework of the Commonwealth.

The problem of security guarantees for Ukraine has become aggravated in view of the internal political crisis in Russia. Yet another question has arisen before the Ukrainian leadership: To whom in Russia should the weapons be ceded? Virtually all political forces, including President Leonid Kravchuk, in some form or another have spoken out in support of Boris Yeltsin. However, the real prospect of the "intransigent opposition's" coming to power in the Kremlin, whose leaders do not recognize Ukrainian statehood and in their relations with President Kravchuk are promising to take guidance not from the norms of international law but the articles of the criminal code, increase the number of supporters of Ukraine's nuclear status. Kiev is no less alarmed over Aleksandr Rutskoy, who makes no secret of his territorial claims on Ukraine.

Therefore one cannot really count on the ratification of the corresponding documents until the results of the April referendum in Russia have become clear, even given that this will cause Ukraine certain losses in its relationship with the West. Many Ukrainian politicians now think that haste in resolving this issue can cost Ukraine much more than foreign policy losses in the event of a delay in the ratification of the START I treaty and accession to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. If Yeltsin comes out the winner at the referendum, Ukraine will ratify the documents. If, on the other hand, he loses, the West's position on nuclear weapons in Ukraine can also change.

News Conference Highlights Problem of Ukraine Nuclear Arms

PM0704133593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By T. Aldoshina; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A news conference on the subject of former USSR nuclear weapons deployed on Ukrainian territory took place in Moscow today. At the press conference it was stated that the Ukraine leadership's recent statements do not correspond to claims about this state's nuclear-free status. Answering questions from journalists, Boris Gromov noted the need to return to this question again soon at the next round of Russian-Ukrainian talks in order to avert any possibility of a development of the crisis situation involving nuclear weapons which has emerged in Ukraine. It was also stated that if Ukraine fails to demonstrate a constructive approach at the talks, and if as a result yet another nuclear state should emerge, then this will jeopardize the entire process of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and set a dangerous precedent for other so-called "near-nuclear" countries. [Video shows press conference, footage of nuclear missiles, weapons, nuclear explosion.]

Churkin Arrives in Belgrade for Talks

LD0704172093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade April 7 TASS—Vitaly Churkin, a special envoy of the Russian president and Russian deputy foreign minister, has arrived in Belgrade today to continue contacts with leaders of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Bosnian Serbs for the settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On Wednesday [7 April], the Russian diplomat is to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and leader of Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic.

On Thursday, the Russian diplomat is expected to have talks with Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic.

In a brief interview with ITAR-TASS Churkin said that it was too early yet to make forecasts about the outcome of forthcoming meetings and prospects for signing all elements of the Vance-Owen plan by leaders of Bosnian Serbs. Churkin said that Russia had new plans to offer and that it did not consider the situation hopeless. "However, for the time being we are in the stage of studying the possibilities to see the matter through," Churkin said.

Upon completion of talks in Belgrade the Russian diplomat intends to fly to New York or Washington to continue contacts with co- chairmen of the coordinative committee for peace conference on former yugoslavia and U.S. special envoy Reginald Bartholomew.

Churkin's Bosnia Visit Assessed

MK0704134093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 93 p 4

[Sergey Gryzunov, Andrey Baturin, RIAN correspondents in Belgrade specially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "A War Diffidently Called a Conflict Marked Its First Anniversary Yesterday"]

[Excerpts] Precisely a year ago the European Community recognized the independence of this former Yugoslav republic headed by Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic and thus, whether it wanted to or not, let a horrendous genie out of the bottle right on its own doorstep. [passage omitted]

The Serbs have made their choice in the extreme situation in which they have found themselves. They preferred to form their forces into a fist and hold on till the end. They had a chance to accept the Vance-Owen plan and to demand afterward that their conditions regarding contentious issues be met, but they did not do so. It is their right, and God may judge them. Nor was the presence of the Russian president's special envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, at the session in Bilec of any help. He came to that city at the invitation of the Bosnian Serb leaders not to put pressure on them, but to try to explain to them that signing the Vance-Owen plan would not mark the end of the world for the Serbs. It will just mark the end of yet another stage in the long and painful process of the peaceful settlement of the Bosnian crisis. Had they signed the maps, the Serbs would have received an opportunity for a respite and room for maneuver, which did not mean at all a definitive refusal to consider their demands.

In our view, Vitaliy Churkin has done everything or nearly everything possible. He has met twice with President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, a politician who has been keeping a low profile, but who is with some reason considered here the key to many issues, including the Bosnian crisis. We have learned from reliable sources that on the eve of the Bilec session Milosevic met with Radovan Karadjic. The local press passed this meeting over in silence. The meeting evidently focused, however, on finalizing the details of the upcoming parliamentary session. We believe that the official call for the unification of all the Serbs was not a fortuitous move and that it could not have been made without Milosevic's knowledge and assent. Thus, the outcome of the parliamentary meeting in Bilec was already a foregone conclusion, and the deputies of the Bosnian Serbs merely took cognizance of the arguments and reasons put forward by Vitaliy Churkin. [passage omitted]

Commentator Views NATO's Role in Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD0704140993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 7 Apr 93

[From the "News and Views" program]

[Text] The NATO Council has approved measures to exercise control in the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Anatoliy Potapov writes the following in comment:

NATO's decision is in full conformity with a UN Security Council resolution. Strictly speaking, the council has not directly appealed to NATO. It sanctioned all the necessary measures in case a ban on military flights over Bosnia-Herzegovina is violated. These measures can be adopted by separate UN member countries or within the framework of regional organizations. NATO partners agree that the North Atlantic bloc should act as a military-political regional alliance. Thus for the first time NATO receives a mandate from the United Nations to realize one of the basic trends of its new strategy: active participation in promoting peace in critical conditions. It is also the first time that the 16-member alliance will operate beyond the territorial limits fixed in the North Atlantic Treaty.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner has announced with satisfaction that it means the beginning of a new role and new missions for NATO. True, Mr.

Woerner repeatedly stressed that the alliance would cease to exist if there was no new role for it in a politically changed Europe.

On 13 April, permission to bring down planes intruding into the special zone over Bosnia will come into force. Meanwhile, NATO is preparing for the operation, but not everything is going smoothly. It looks like Germany's decision to allow German NATO crews to take part in the action smells of a political scandal, first because the German Constitution prohibits the participation of German servicemen in any operation outside the North Atlantic Treaty zone; second, Chancellor Kohl himself, evidently implying the fascist outrage in Yugoslavia during World War II, said recently: Those who forgot that Germany has no right to take part in a military operation in Yugoslavia have a very short memory. The case will apparently be considered by the Federal Constitutional Court and the Bundestag.

So NATO has a UN mandate for operations in Bosnia's airspace, but what arouses concern is that some NATO leaders say this is just a prologue to a more important action. NATO plans to send up to 60,000 soldiers to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As you may recall, Russia endorsed the Security Council resolution only as one of the ways to achieve a political settlement. No strikes against ground Bosnian targets, including airfields, are envisaged. It is absolutely clear that NATO's actions in Bosnia-Herzegovina must be strictly limited by the framework of the international mandate.

EC Plan To Open Markets to Russia Welcomed

PM0704133093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 93 First Edition p 3

[Yuriy Kovalenko report followed by Aleksey Portanskiy report under the general heading: "European Community Intends To Open Its Markets to Our Commodities"]

[Text] Paris—The 12 EC countries decided at their meeting in Luxembourg to hold talks with Russia with a view to granting it most favored nation status in trade and concluding an agreement on the creation of a free trade zone in the future.

This step, coming after the successful completion of the meeting in Vancouver, is seen in Western capitals as further evidence of support for Boris Yeltsin and his economic programs. It constitutes recognition that the EC must do everything it can to help the process of reforms and democratization in Russia, Sir Leon Brittan, EC foreign trade commissioner, said.

This agreement opening Western markets to Russian commodities will be of tremendous significance to the country, increasing its export potential. The EC has decided that initially the future treaty of partnership will only apply to Russia and will not extend to Ukraine, Kazakhstan, or the other republics of the former Union. However, observers point out that the creation of a free trade zone with Russia remains a fairly remote prospect that is most likely not to be realized until the next century and entails a whole series of prior conditions, in particular Moscow's subscribing to GATT.

Lastly, the "Twelve" intend to protect their trade and economic interests, prevent an onslaught of dumping, and put an end to conflicts with Russia in the steel industry and fishing. While certain countries (Germany, Britain, and Denmark), AP notes, would like to open the doors of the Community wider, others (France, Spain) are on the contrary afraid of being inundated with cheap output from Russia. [Kovalenko ends]

"The EC has finally agreed to acknowledge as one link in the development of relations with Russia the need to hold talks with it on establishing free trade conditions," Kirill Ivanov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Agency for International Cooperation and Development, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent, commenting on the EC Council of Ministers decision in Luxembourg.

This fully accords with the ideas and aims of the future treaty on partnership and cooperation between the EC and Russia, which is now being worked on by both sides in an endeavor to prepare it for signing this year. The session in Luxembourg extended the EC Commission's mandate to hold talks with Russia on this treaty, and future talks on free trade are one of the components of this renewed mandate.

We would like, K. Ivanov went on to stress, a specific date for the start of these talks, but one has not yet been named. Our partners' references to the fact that Russia is not yet a member of GATT are of course a definite argument on their side, but they must not in principle retard movement toward removing trade restrictions for Russia. We are in favor of employing the most important principle of GATT—and holding consultations in the event of signs of one side's infringing on the market. That is essential in order to establish that various goods have appeared on Western markets not as a result of a Russian violation, but because our borders are too transparent, something that is being successfully exploited to illegally export our commodities.

The decision adopted in Luxembourg is of course extremely favorable for Russia. However, in K. Ivanov's opinion, the EC could accommodate us more rapidly by finding innovative approaches in its relations with Russia.

Rutskoy Meets Qatari Counterpart; Relations To Improve

LD0704142193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy met Hamad al Thani, the foreign minister of Qatar, on Wednesday [7 April] to discuss bilateral relations.

Rutskoy proposed to boost cooperation in construction, metallurgy, and the production of construction materials as well as to exchange trade missions.

He also said Russian contractors can build a water-desalinating complex in Qatar.

Rutskoy regretted that Russia had closed its embassy in Qatar and said the decision must be reviewed.

Hamad al Thani said there are good prospects for cooperation in power-engineering and in establishing an air link between Russia and Qatar.

He extended an invitation to Rutskoy to visit Qatar on an official visit.

Deputy Foreign Minister on North Korean Nuclear Move

MK0704140493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 15, 11 Apr 93 (signed to press 6 Apr) p A 7

[Article by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov under "In the World" rubric: "Are Sanctions Against North Korea Needed?"]

[Text] The DPRK's declaration of its intention to withdraw from the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the first precedent of this kind, which threatens to undermine the very regime of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. This decision complicates the situation not only in the Far East also in the world as a whole. It cannot be ruled out that the DPRK's example might infect other countries. The undermining of the nonproliferation regime could also be taken advantage of by the so-called "near-nuclear" states, which, incidentally, are located on the borders of the former Union. The events around North Korea could also indirectly influence the position of Ukraine, which, as is known, has not yet ratified START I or subscribed to the Nonproliferation Treaty as a nonnuclear state.

It is not entirely clear why Pyongyang is withdrawing from the treaty. Maybe it "took offense" at the resumption of the U.S.-South Korean Team Spirit maneuvers and at the use of photographs from U.S. satellites by the IAEA. But the possibility that the DPRK really is capable of producing nuclear weapons cannot be ruled out.

The USSR was instrumental in the fact that the DPRK subscribed to the Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985. In the past it did a great deal to contribute to Pyongyang's decision to conclude with the IAEA an agreement on guarantees of the DPRK's nonnuclear status, including the holding of inspections. Many people are asking whether it is not the fault of Russia, as the USSR's legal heir, that by ending our aid to Pyongyang we once again gave Kim Il-song reason to speak of North Korea as a "besieged fortress." I do not think so. The North Koreans themselves do not attempt to justify their step by referring to what Russia does. They allude to their own "higher" interests, to Team Spirit, and to the United States. But the exercises are already over, and the troop withdrawal process has begun.

How capable is Russia of influencing the present situation? Here it is undoubtedly necessary to rely on the opinion of all members of the world community. Russia takes a very active part in shaping this opinion.

Our country was one of the coauthors of the IAEA resolution providing for the Security Council and the UN General Assembly to be kept constantly informed about the development of events. North Korea announced its withdrawal from the treaty on 12 March. But under the terms of the treaty it will be able to withdraw from it only on the expiration of three months from the corresponding application. During this time it will be possible to reconsider. Russia and the international community intend to promote this.

There is no question of sanctions at present, and diplomatic methods alone are being relied on. Moreover, the DPRK is a country which is virtually entirely self-sufficient, and it is debatable whether the use of economic sanctions against it will have any effect.

The depositaries of the Nonproliferation Treaty recently issued a constructive statement, calm in tone, confirming guarantees of nuclear security in respect of the DPRK and the idea of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and urging North Korea to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the treaty. In the field of diplomatic efforts the possibility of setting in motion the "four plus two" mechanism, which proposes the participation of Russia, the United States, the PRC, Japan, and the two Koreas in talks, is being considered. Bilateral consultations between Pyongyang and Washington, Beijing, Moscow, and other interested sides will also be of great significance.

Finally, the DPRK declares that Yonbong (the main suspicions fall on this center) is the location not of nuclear waste storage facilities but of two military installations, which do not fall within the agreement on guarantees with the IAEA—and this is why the agency's inspectors are not admitted there, but there is a way out here too: The convention on chemical weapons, adopted in January, formulated specific procedures and rules for checking various installations that make it possible to keep secrets not relating to chemical weapons. Why not utilize this experience, which already exists, to inspect the North Korean installations?

It is necessary to conduct a dialogue with North Korea and to demonstrate that the nonproliferation regime meets its own long-term interests. The United Nations could play a part in this. The adoption of the IAEA resolution and the statement by the depositaries of the

Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty constitute the continuation of this dialogue, which must help to find the way out of the very complex situation that has been created.

More on Kireyev Remarks on Russia-PRC Border Demarcation

PM0704140593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 93 First Edition p 7

[Sergey Ponomarev report: "4,300 Km of the Border With China Has Not Been Demarcated. Demarcation Has Now Begun"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Special envoy Genrikh Kireyev, chairman of the Russian delegation on the Joint Commission for the Demarcation of the Russian-Chinese Border, reports that in line with the agreement between the USSR and the PRC of 16 May 1991 on the Soviet-Chinese border, a 4,300-km demarcation line, of which 3,700 km accounts for river sectors, is to be agreed in the eastern part of the border. [passage omitted]

"Unfortunately, some people of the Far East have already managed to be negatively disposed to the forthcoming demarcation of the border. However, talk of any kind of 'territorial concessions to China' and 'the expropriation of Russian lands' and the like have no basis," G. Kireyev stressed. "It is only a matter of specifying the line of the border in the region with the aid of an instrument survey. To call into question the generally accepted international practice of determining the border on navigable rivers along the middle of the main fairway, and on nonnavigable rivers along the middle of the river or its main branch, means to create grounds for further quarrels and misunderstandings."

Alas, the incautious statements of some leaders of Khabarovsk Kray and remarks on the kray's television and in one regional newspaper in the Jewish Autonomous Oblast on the "border question" have already become widely known to (and provoked a retaliatory reaction from) the Chinese side. In particular, the islands of Bolshoy on the Ussuri and Tarabarovskiy, on which thousands of Khabarovsk citizens have dacha plots and where the lands of local sovkhozes are located, have been focused on. G. Kireyev once again confirmed that the sides have left open the question of two islands in the Amur, as also Bolshoy Island in the lower reaches of the Argun. For this reason demarcation will not be carried out over two 28-km sectors. In line with Article 7 of the agreement on the reduction of armed forces and weapons along the Russian-Chinese border, these contested territories of a total area of 408 square kilometers are to maintain the status quo pending a comprehensive border settlement, that is to say, they are to remain under Russian jurisdiction.

Talks Provide 'Stability' in Ties

PM0704133193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Apr 93 p 2

[Valeriy Golovin report: "Time To Define the Border"]

[Text] Work to demarcate the state border between Russia and China has begun in the Far East. This marks the end of long-standing border disagreements dating back to the 17th century.

There were numerous attempts to settle these disputes back under Soviet power, but it was not until 1991 that a document was signed on agreeing the 4,300-km border line in the east.

The definitive border line is to be drawn during the demarcation work itself, which will take five years. In the opinion of Genrikh Kireyev, Foreign Ministry ambassador at large, this will be a reliable guarantee of stability in relations between Russia and China and of the further development of economic ties.

Admittedly, two areas of the Russian-Chinese border around 60 km long remain in dispute. The disputed territories are Bolshoy island on the Argun River and the islands of Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy and Tarabarov in the immediate vicinity of Khabarovsk, to which the PRC lays claim.

However, it should be borne in mind that an important element in the accords enshrined in the agreement is the fact that prior to the full settlement of border questions the sides pledge to strictly observe the status quo on the border. In other words, Russian jurisdiction continues to apply to these islands. But as Kireyev stressed, the Russian delegation's viewpoint at the talks remains unchanged—the islands are ours. In principle the disagreements are geographical in character. The Chinese consider that the Ussuri flows directly into the Amur and, according to that logic, the islands near Khabarovsk belong to them. We maintain, however, that the Ussuri and the Amur are separated by the Amurskaya channel, but these are details for the diplomats. As for the islands themselves, they remains under the economic control of the Russians.

Nevertheless, the decision to begin the demarcation work may be considered an extraordinary event. It indicates the two countries' desire to end the long-standing border disagreements and live in peace and friendship with a legally enshrined border between them. This is all the more important when you bear in mind that on Russia's western frontier the concept of the state border has now become somewhat hypothetical in connection with the formation of the independent states from the former Union republics.

Commentary on Outcome of PRC's National People's Congress

PM0704141393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 Single Edition p 7

[Commentary by Sergey Tikhomirov, international department deputy editor: "Chinese Communist Party Says 'You Must!' and People Reply 'Gladly!'"]

[Text] Of course, the 3,000 people's representatives who dispersed from their meeting to return home last Wednesday are not the same as a billion-odd Chinese, but I think that the latter will in time come to thank their representatives, not for having chosen Prime Minister Li Peng for a second term and retiring the country's president, Yang Shangkun, not even for the fact that henceforth Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, will be in command of the Army, the state, and the party (just as the Great Helmsman Mao was), but for the fact that deputies voted with both hands to continue the reforms begun 15 years ago by the most-wise Deng Xiaoping.

Incidentally, the way in which the Celestial Empire will enter the 21st century was determined for the people's representatives by China's Communists. At their party congress at the end of last year they unambiguously advocated the creation of a "socialist market economy" in the country. But that was the wish of the Marxist-Leninists, many of whom, incidentally, have already grasped that a "planned economy"—even with state-planned population growth—is essentially good for nothing. Since, as one joke puts it, the tools of reproduction remain in private hands.

And so, things that were seemingly to be part of the Chinese Constitution forever have been removed from it. Now, instead of the phrase "planned economy"—one of the mainstays, allegedly, of any communist system—it reads "socialist market economy." I do not even know if this postulate will last very long, since the definition of "socialist" in this sense reminds me personally of a woman teasingly wearing a towel on a nudist beach. All the more so as Deng Xiaoping, the patriarch of Chinese reform, never tires of repeating the saying that all cats are "equal" irrespective of what color they are. The main thing, he says, is that they should catch mice...

Finally, China's 800 million peasants have been officially granted their "freedom." The new constitution no longer contains the concept of the notorious "people's communes" which used to be imposed on the peasants by the pharisaical ideologists of universal brotherhood. The family contract, which has operated successfully in the Chinese countryside for around 10 years, feeding the Celestial Empire year round (and which, incidentally, was avidly discussed about 10 years ago by our own specialists, not in the press or on TV—that was impossible—but in secret seminars) has now been legalized. Just imagine what percentage of the earth's population the almost 1 billion Chinese farmers could feed in 15, if not 5 years' time if only 2 percent of American citizens (I am referring to the United States) can feed all their remaining countrymen! And others into the bargain!

...Of course, the constitution of the socialist Celestial Empire still features such "eternal" principles as loyalty to Marxism-Leninism, the ideas of Mao, and so forth. But these are no more than the incantations of an "inveterate" atheist who turns when times are hard not to the party statutes but to the Almighty, with the prayer "Help me, Lord."

And he does...

Political Issues

First Deputy Chairman Holds News Conference 8 Apr

Shumeyko Says Yeltsin 'Would Resign'

OW0804091393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0903 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko told reporters Thursday [8 April] that if the majority of the Russian voters did not support the president he would resign. "I know the president's character very well," he said. He noted, however, that judging from the recent opinion polls more than 50% of the citizens who turn up at the polling stations would give their backing to the president.

Shumeyko announced that the president did not intend to hold a parallel opinion poll. Nor would he appeal to the Constitutional Court against the congress' decision on the method of counting votes during the referendum. "Yesterday, a group of people's deputies asked the Constitutional Court to establish whether that decision complied with the Constitution," Shumeyko said.

He also pointed out that a candidate for the post of economics minister could be approved today. On Thursday morning, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin went to the president for final discussions concerning the candidates.

Urges Voters To Reject Early Election

LD0804114293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] At the upcoming referendum Boris Yeltsin's supporters should not say yes to the question about early elections of the president, Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, said at a meeting with journalists today. According to him, Boris Yeltsin made a noble gesture by inviting the population to say yes to all four questions proposed for the referendum. Regional opinion polls have shown that more than a half of those who will take part in the referendum will vote for confidence in the president, Vladimir Shumeyko said.

Highlights Positive Economic Indicators

LD0804125293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1018 GMT 8 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr—The fall in industrial production in Russia has stopped, Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, told journalists today. He said that "for almost six months nobody has been able to claim in any way that output is falling." All talk of declining output is, therefore, mere "political bluff," continuing as if by its own momentum.

Referring to statistical data, Vladimir Shumeyko said that the last time a fall in production was registered was this past January but that that was accounted for by the reduced number of working days that month. The rate of price increases also slowed down, totaling 27 percent in January, 25 percent in February, and 17 percent in March. In January and February the state budget operated without a deficit and a positive balance between state revenue and expenditure was achieved. The monthly index of inflation is falling. In January it was 27 percent, in February 25 percent, and in March 17 percent. The forecasts are for the rate of price increases to fall to 12-14 percent in April.

Commenting on the movement of industrial production indicators, the first deputy prime minister said that the stage of "shock therapy" and the dismantling of the old economic system has now ended. The stage of stabilization has started, he said. The government is adhering to the financial policies that it has chosen. The volume of centralized credit has been reduced. In June-October last year the rate of increase in the money supply totaled 28.4 percent, in November-January 12.8 percent, and in February 9.9 percent.

Vladimir Shumeyko noted that these fairly positive results were achieved, to a considerable extent, because the government has managed on the whole to coordinate policy with the Russian Central Bank on ways of reducing the amount of credit and cash in circulation.

Entrepreneurs, Cooperators League Meets in Moscow

Shumeyko Reads Yeltsin Greetings

LD0804124393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] A meeting of the League of Russian Cooperators and Entrepreneurs is being held in Moscow at this very minute. A speech by Boris Yeltsin was expected. He could not make it to the meeting, however, so his greeting was read out by First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] Today Russia is living through a very difficult period in its political history. The opposition of revanchist forces to the social and economic transformations connected with the country's transition from totalitarianism to a liberal market economy has become especially strong. Despite this, ideas and the practice of free enterprise are becoming an ever more noticeable phenomenon in our economic life. In present conditions it is entrepreneurs who form the most sound and consistent social support for reforms. Russia is looking hopefully to your ability to saturate the country with inexpensive and high-quality goods. The positive tradition of entrepreneurs taking part in the development of culture, science, education, public health, and charity have not been forgotten in Russia. [end recording]

Shumeyko's Address Reported

LD0804123893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1149 GMT 8 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Dzyublo, Alexey Filatov]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The Russian Government firmly intends to go on with the course at economic reforms on a basis of free enterprise, overcoming the resistance of the reactionary forces. Vladimir Shumeyko, first Russian deputy-premier, said this on Thursday [8 April] at a meeting on cooperators and business people in support of reforms. The meeting is being held in the Hall of Columns.

Shumeyko said the government regards cooperators and business people as the most solid and consistent social support for reforms. To make this support even firmer, the government is soon going to adopt a decree to support enterprise. The decree will, specifically, envisage financial aid to those who intend to help fill the market.

Regarding the economic situation in Russia, Shumeyko said that it directly depends on the complex political situation into which society was plunged by Communists who are eager to seize power. Shumeyko expressed the confidence that during the referendum the Russian president will be given the people's mandate for the continuation of the economic reforms.

Shumeyko Comments on Decree Raising Gas Prices

OW0804143493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko believes that the Moscow authorities' decision to raise prices for gasoline on the eve of the April referendum may cause a controversial response. He told Interfax Thursday [8 April] that it was difficult to say whether prices for gasoline were being deliberately raised and how this decision would influence voters.

Shumeyko said, however, that according to his sources the president was drafting a decree to reverse this decision. Moreover, the decree deals not only with Moscow, but also with other regions, "because the issue of rising prices, above all those for gasoline, is currently the responsibility of the local authorities, not the government," (but it should be the other way around).

The Russian Cabinet's experts believe that the draft decree may specify the responsibilities of local authorities in several spheres, including pricing.

Council of Ministers Presidium Meets 7 Apr

Discusses Environment Measures

OW0704144693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidium of the Russian Council of Ministers discussed April 7 numerous environmental conservation measures proposed by Viktor Danilov-Danielyan, Environment and Natural Resource Protection Minister.

The minister said that the existing division of labor between Russian agencies responsible for the use of natural resources and ecology did not assure the preservation of specific natural resources or consistency of technological policy in this field.

Danilov-Danielyan suggested setting up a system of state bodies headed by his ministry which would supervise federal hydrometeorological, water utilization, forestry, and other services.

Approves Measures for Small Businesses

OW0704143093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [7 April], the Russian Cabinet's Presidium, chaired by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, approved priority measures to promote small businesses. This document will be finalized within a week and adopted alongside other resolutions of the government.

Acting Economics Minister Andrey Shapovalyants, who presented the document, said that priority had been given to the growth and procession of agricultural produce, to the production of industrial goods and commodities, to the extension of communal and every-day services, and to the construction of housing and industrial facilities. The federal executive bodies had been instructed to promote small and medium businesses by extending credits to them, by supplying them with material resources, by helping them to sell their products and by assisting them in foreign economic activity through a network of specialized organizations with state participation.

Shapovalyants announced that the government had sent the draft law on state support for small businesses to the parliament. Besides that, amendments to the current law on foreign investments are being considered. According to them, small businesses' special accounts reserved for enlarging production would not be taxed and their income tax rates would be reduced commencing the third and fourth year since registration with VAT [value added tax] paid to equipment suppliers being compensated for. Besides this there are plans to offer tax concessions to commercial banks extending credits to small industrial enterprises.

In May, the Cabinet intends to draft amendments and additions to the law on enterprises and entrepreneurship, which will define state guarantees of the rights of entrepreneurs and simplify the registration of companies and individuals engaged in private business.

By August, the Cabinet will draft proposals on freeing small businesses working in the priority areas from import duties.

The Presidium supported the proposal by Shapovalyants that the Economics Ministry should coordinate the entire range of issues pertaining to the promotion of small businesses.

Environmental Control Bodies Approved

LD0704162793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1525 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation has considered problems of the environmental protection today. It has approved on the whole measures of economic stimulation in this sphere, considered the possibility of creating a system of fully empowered state bodies of the Russian Federation in the field of ecology. The Presidium has also adopted a convention on the protection and use of trans-frontier water bodies and international lakes.

Viktor Danilov-Daniliyan, minister of environmental protection and natural resources, proposed to insert a number of alterations and additions into the texts of laws of the Russian Federation on taxation which would guarantee the economic interest of enterprises in the improvement of the environment, rational use and reproduction of natural resources.

According to Viktor Danilov-Daniliyan, the proposed system of fully empowered state bodies of the Russian Federation will include the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, the federal service on hydrometeorology and environment control, the federal service of woodland resources, the committees for water conservation, for land resources and land-utilization system, for geology and the use of bowels of the earth and fishing. They should ensure comprehensive regulation of the use of natural resources and a single state ecological policy on the territory of the Russian Federation. Actually, the course towards separating supervision- and-control environmental protection bodies from natural resources users will be implemented, the minister said.

Not all participants of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers supported the concept of creating such a system. The gist of their objections was it is not necessary to wreck the existing system of environmental protection, first of all a sectoral one. Besides, over the last two years this may become the third reorganization of the system of environmental protection. It was decided to send the documents on the organisation of a new system to subjects of the Russian Federation for coordination and further elaboration.

Speaking at a news conference today, Viktor Danilov-Daniliyan said that "in 1992 expenditure for the ecological activities amounted to two billion roubles. The same sum was spent in the period from 1987 to 1991." However, now it will be necessary to spend three or four times more for these purposes, according to experts' estimates.

More on Presidium Session

PM0804110793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Russian Government Has Discussed Open Questions Behind Closed Doors"]

[Text] The Russian Government Presidium session on 7 April was held in the absence of journalists. Even though the questions on the agenda were not announced as such. Bewildered journalists put a question to Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, who replied that there are no problems, come and listen. But on the instructions of V. Kvasov, leader of the government apparatus, no one was allowed into the room where the session took place.

Nevertheless, judging from the materials prepared for the session, the first question to be examined was a package of priority measures for the development of small and medium scale business. This document envisages among other things the establishment of state guarantees for the rights of entrepreneurs and the simplification of the procedure for the registration of entrepreneurial activity without the need to create a legal entity.

In this connection it was even suggested that citizens could use their vouchers as incorporation capital. V. Shumeyko was instructed to examine the legal and technical aspects of this question. Other plans include exempting from taxation the resources of small enterprises which have been accumulated for the purpose of developing production and reduce the profit tax on those enterprises in the third and fourth years after their registration, tax concessions on the income of investment funds received from the investment of resources in the development of small business, and tax concessions for banks which give credits to small production enterprises. In the sphere of foreign economic activity it is planned to study documents exempting from import duties those enterprises working in priority areas of the economy. The government includes here the production and processing of agricultural produce, industrial goods, and consumer goods...

Next the members of the government examined a package of proposals relating to environmental protection problems. The speech by Environment Minister Danilov-Danilyan and the package of documents presented by the Ministry of the Use of Nature and Environmental Protection point out that in the period 1987-1991, for example, capital investments in environmental protection on Russian Federation territory amounted to 2 billion rubles a year (in 1991 prices). At the same time, expert assessments demonstrate that the amount of money needed for these purposes is at least three to four times higher. The federal budget now includes virtually no resources for this and the ecological funds and resources of enterprises remain the only source of finance. In this connection the Ministry of the Use of Nature and Environmental Protection has proposed a set of advantageous measures to ensure the protection of the natural environment. Specifically, work and services provided using the resources of ecological funds are to be exempted from value added tax and the advantages envisaged by the Law on the taxation of the profit of enterprises and organizations are to be extended to ecological funds, and nature reserves, national parks and arboreta, and botanical gardens are to be exempted from value added tax.

The Council of Ministers also adopted a decree on the system of Russian Federation state organs with special powers in the sphere of environmental protection. The decree says that for the purpose of preserving natural resources from the viewpoint of their interconnection with the biosphere and the comprehensive management of these processes it is necessary to create an integrated system of state management agencies with special powers. In addition to the Ministry of the Use of Nature and Environmental Protection and its agencies this system should include the relevant ministries and departments and the autonomous formations of krays and oblasts belonging to the Russian Federation in conjunction with the subjects of the Federation. The Council of Ministers resolved to affiliate to the Convention for the Protection and Use of Crossborder Waterways and International Lakes, which was signed by Russia's representative in Helsinki in 1992.

'Roundtable' Speeches of Rutskoy, Others Cited

PM0804085393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Otto Latsis report: "'Roundtable' Brandishes Bogey of Civil War and Promises To Combine What Cannot Be Combined"]

[Text] The fourth session of the "roundtable" set up in January by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Russian Government to elaborate recommendations for programs of anticrisis measures and the development of the reforms was held 6 April. One of the two permanent cochairmen was present: Yu. Voronin, first deputy speaker of parliament. His colleague, Vice Premier B. Fedorov, was absent for reasons which Yu. Voronin described as unforeseen [sluchaynyy], though he did not think it necessary to explain them. The session was chaired by Academician N. Petrakov.

The "roundtable's" work has now reached the businesslike stage: Two variant drafts of the final documents were examined. On behalf of four Russian Academy of Sciences institutes Academician L. Abalkin presented a "working document" called a draft agreement on anticrisis measures for 1993. The draft proposes "concentrating the bulk of money on the 'Conversion of the Military-Industrial Complex' state program in order to solve via this program many other priority problems of restructuring, including the food problem, housing construction, and so forth." In order to protect Russian commodity producers it is proposed to abandon the "hasty opening up of the domestic market." There are many proposals regarding price regulation, including a claim that the state "can and must regulate prices throughout the successive technological stages [peredely] of the national economy." The draft proposes "temporarily" retaining the existing level of state budget deficit and expanding the state debt. It is proposed to "lessen the tax burden," urgently issue loans to agricultural enterprises, compensate the population for at least 70 percent of the increase in prices, increase the share of budget spending used for public health, education, science, and culture, and carry out many other valuable ideas. Summing up, it can be said that on the whole this draft is quite a logical description of the system of bureaucratized anarchy that wrecked even the once mighty economy of the USSR. It would be possible to finish off the tottering Russian economy with that collection of ideas in a matter of days, assuming that the government dared to do this.

As an alternative "roundtable" document Ye. Saburov submitted proposals to create an "Economic Solidarity" ("National Accord") pact. This is quite a realistic deideologized document which, in my view, could indeed be the basis for a quest for accord.

Vice President A. Rutskoy, who spoke next, reported that hard currency equivalent in ruble terms to "almost double the GNP" has been exported from the country, but he did not explain the source of that information or how it is actually possible to do such a thing. He believes that an economic process leading to the disintegration of the state and to dictatorship is taking place. "So long as these figures are in the government," the vice president said, "this process will deteriorate." In two or three months he promised "something midway between civil war and dictatorship" and hinted that someone "should write a constitution for a monarch."

During the debate National Salvation Front representative I. Konstantinov approved L. Abalkin's report, but expressed surprise—what is the point in discussing all this when, so he has learned, a stop will be put "to development within the framework of the constitution" after the referendum, irrespective of its results. Despite this, Konstantinov suggested preparing for the next session an agreement by the "presidential side," representatives of the Supreme Soviet, and representatives of the main political blocs "to personnel changes," which "could be secret" at first, and publishing this agreement in the press. G. Zyuganov, chairman of the Russian Federation Communist Party Central Executive Committee, supported L. Abalkin, A. Rutskoy, and I. Konstantinov, condemned the president and the government, declared that dictatorship shall not pass, and promised a social explosion in six months.

"Round" indeed—such speeches were made, and readers are entitled to know of this. However, this time the main background was determined by the businesslike speeches of entrepreneurs and the representatives of the new commercial structures. They are most worried by something that L. Abalkin's report fails to mention: the disarray in the credit and financial system. Thus Ye. Voldemarova, cochairman of the Moscow Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, very eloquently described the work of industry in conditions where enterprise-to-enterprise payments take three or four months. She disclosed that entrepreneurs have offered the Central Bank leadership both technical assistance and their own money, including hard currency, in order to create a modern payments system—but the bank remains silent. E. Voldemarova believes that it is precisely the solution of such problems that should be the state's task.

By the time of the next session it was decided to combine what cannot be combined: the drafts of L. Abalkin and Ye. Saburov. With that they parted until May.

Constitutional Court Judges Criticize Zorkin's Actions

MK0704121693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Apr 93 p 12

[Aleksandr Balashov report: "Judges Have Not Fully Agreed With Their Chairman"]

[Text] On the evening of 5 April the first roundtable of the series called "Culture of Free Journalism" was held at the Russian Press Ministry. Press Minister Mikhail Fedotov and five members of the Constitutional Court met with journalists to "find out the reason for vicious attacks by the press on the country's highest judicial body" by way of an open dialogue. The judges said flatly that "Valeriy Zorkin by no means represents the entire Constitutional Court," but is merely its chairman. In addition, they gave an account of the parliament's attempts to create levers to manipulate the judicial branch.

The Press Ministry roundtable attended by Press Minister Mikhail Fedotov and Constitutional Court members Nikolay Vitruk, Ernest Ametistov, Tamara Morshchakova, Gadis Gadzhiyev, and Boris Ebzeyev has shown that the judges are seriously concerned about the sharp criticism heaped on the highest judicial body after a series of political demarches by its chairman, Valeriy Zorkin. In some publications, and also in pronouncements by political figures such as Sergey Shakhray, Gavriil Popov, and Anatoliy Sobchak, a proposal was made that the Constitutional Court should be abolished and its functions handed over to the Supreme Court.

According to Constitutional Court member Boris Ebzeyev, whose opinion was generally supported by his colleagues, "it is the judges that may prove bad, but not the institution of the Constitutional Court." Acknowledging to the journalists that the court found itself "littered with routine political matters," Judge Nikolay Vitruk said: "We should have been sent to the periphery, say, to Nizhniy Novgorod, because we are not a fire brigade or a legal council's office to give off-the-cuff opinions hot on the trail." As turned out during the roundtable session, the judges in many instances agree with the criticism of Valeriy Zorkin's actions. Judge Tamara Morshchakova, for instance, said that with all due respect for Mr. Zorkin's courage as citizen shown in his immediate reaction to the president's address to the people, she believes that his ensuing participation in the review of the case amounted to a flagrant violation of the law. Ernest Ametistov also added that "if all the judges, following the example of their chairman, rush headlong to react to political statements, there will be no one to pass rulings." In addition, both journalists and judges have aired serious complaints about the parliament, which has recently passed a number of laws and decrees that are at odds with the Law on the Constitutional Court. This is shown by, among other things, the so-called "table of ranks," which put the Constitutional Court chairman on a par with the president and the parliament speaker with respect not only to benefits, but also to salaries—whereas under the law all the judges are to be equal, and a chairman is only to be elected for the purpose of presiding over meetings and conducting organizational work.

The judges were also indignant at the draft law on the protection of officials, which the president sent back to parliament to be finalized. Under the bill, only the Constitutional Court chairman is entitled to have a guard, and it is he who may, even against the will of a court member, assign bodyguards to any judge. According to Ernest Ametistov, this will not only strip the judges of the legitimate right to decide for themselves on their own security, but also encroach on the court's independence proclaimed by the law.

Thus, the judges themselves have acknowledged that the parliament has been trying to create levers to manipulate the Constitutional Court (see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 17 March). According to Ernest Ametistov, the system of perks that was established in the past decade, including guards and services provided to high-ranking officials, is still in place. He was able to see it upon his election as Constitutional Court member when he "experienced the power of this morass that drags people down."

[Article includes the following boxed passage]

From the statute on the remuneration categories under the Unified Tariff Scale for the main civil service positions in the budget-financed sector dated 14 October 1992

A total of 18 categories of state civil servants who receive salaries in accordance with their categories shall be established in Russia. Those assigned to the highest, eighteenth category, shall be the president of the Russian Federation, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the chairman of the Constitutional Court.

From the Law on the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation

Members of the Constitutional Court who have equal length of service in this office shall receive equal compensation. Personal bonuses may not be paid to members of the Constitutional Court in addition to their compensation.

Zorkin: Constitutional Court 'More Important Than Ever'

PM0704130193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "Constitutional Court Has Invited Journalists..."]

[Text] The press conference was devoted to problems of overcoming the crisis of power, to explaining the Constitutional Court's position in the present difficult situation, and to the legal implications of preparation for the referendum on 25 April.

Opening the press conference, Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin stressed that it is now more important than ever to preserve the "little island of arbitration" which is the Constitutional Court.

According to Judge Boris Ebzeyev, the main thrust of the Constitutional Court's further activity is to ensure that the solution of all political disputes is conducted within strict legal bounds.

Constitutional Commission Says New Electoral Law Ready

OW0704223893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1920 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Deputy and member of the Constitutional Commission Viktor Sheynis spoke of no longer supporting the idea of adopting the country's new constitution as soon as possible. Speaking at a meeting by the parliamentary Reform Alliance faction in Moscow on Wednesday [7 April], he described an attempt to try to convert the well-balanced Federal Treaty into a Confederative one as " a land mine on the road of a new constitution." He thinks that both the legislature and the government, now locked in a power struggle, will try to enlist support from Russian autonomies by making further constitutional concessions.

Sheynis believes it necessary to try to amend the existing constitution at the next Congress of People's Deputies so as to abolish the Congress and solve the problem of forming an upper house of parliament. Under the existing arrangement, half of the seats in the Supreme Soviet are taken by national-territorial entities accounting for 14 percent of Russia's total population, with the other half taken by Russian territories and regions in which 86 percent of Russians live.

In an interview with Interfax, Sheynis said the Constitutional Commission's working group had drafted a new electoral bill which would go before parliament soon.

Under the proposed law, autonomous republics are entitled to two seats and autonomous regions to one seat each in the upper (Federal) chamber. A mixed system is provided for elections to the lower chamber (State Duma): half of the deputies are to be elected from single mandate constituencies, and the other half - by lists offered by parties and public groups.

A party or public group is entitled to nominate a candidate if it collects 200,000 signatures in support of its election program. However, parties drumming up less than 3 percent (the 5% percent figure still to be clarified) of the vote forfeit the right to parliamentary seats.

Sheynis believes the next general election must be held under the new law.

Procurator Stepankov Meets With Intelligentsia

LD0804052493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2150 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr—Issues connected with perfecting the Constitution and judicial reform, the progress of investigations into the financial activity of the former CPSU, and problems of the upcoming State Committee for the State of Emergency case were all at the center of attention of a meeting between Valentin Stepankov, procurator-general of Russia, and intelligentsia on 7 April at the Moscow House of Cinema. Opening the meeting, Valentin Stepankov pointed out that "the law currently in operation defends state institutions and every citizen," and expressed support for holding radical judicial reform in society. In his opinion, it has to start "from expanding juridical institutions and employing people with a new psychology and way of thinking." At the same time he repeated that today Russia needs an extra 2,000 investigators and 2,000 judges.

Commenting on the activities of the media and in particular on the calls from the pages of newspapers for a change to the constitutional structure in Russia, the procurator-general said that about 40 criminal cases have been brought to date against people, including journalists, who stir up interethnic discord. At the same time, he suggested, it is essential to draw a precise line between stirring up interethnic discord and dissent, for which "you cannot persecute people by means of tough punishments." Those gathered in the hall were interested in investigation by the procuracy of the financial activities of the former CPSU. The Russian procurator-general informed those taking part in the meeting that the CPSU had taken about $400 million from the state budget over 20 years for financial support to foreign communist parties. Besides, Valentin Stepankov emphasized, the first signature on many documents was that of Mikhail Gorbachev. "Not one of the documents shows any sign of anybody voting against," he emphasized. Besides this sum, one billion rubles were set aside by a Politburo decision for so-called "special property." Apart from that, the Communist Party deposited about 6 billion rubles in various commercial banks within Russia.

Valentin Stepankov concluded by expressing his personal opinion on the State Committee for the State of Emergency trial, opening on 14 April. He once more emphasized his position: "The acccused must be tried for conspiracy to seize power." In his opinion, the accused are attempting to change the trial process from a purely criminal one to a political affair, as is shown by a range of speeches by the accused in the press.

Skepticism Expressed Over Kislov Investigation

PM0804094193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 Single Edition p 9

[Viktor Shishkin reply to reader's letter under the general heading "Where Is the Bomb?"—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "You say that you cannot say anything new about the case of Major Ivan Kislov, who made an attempt on the president's life. Yet this is a serious matter. And people should be kept constantly informed about investigations into such cases. You should ask the KGB, it would clearly know about it—after all, as your newspaper reported 6 March, Ivan Kislov is 'being held in a detention center at Lefortovo.' Or is the KGB still off-limits? [Signed] L. Trofimov, Moscow."

We learned recently from sources close to the Russian Security Ministry that Major Kislov spent only two days in Lefortovo, after which he was moved to "Matrosskaya Tishina" since there was more room there. According to a department staffer at the Lubyanka who asked to remain anonymous, there is no need to waste time on cases which come under the jurisdiction of precinct [uchastkovyy] inspectors, although some people would very much like to give the "terrorist" political overtones.

The silence over the investigation into a case linked with the country's top officials partially confirms this view, forcing us to concoct various theories and to voice certain doubts. This particularly applies to the weapons involved in the "assassination of the century"—a penknife and an explosive device that was allegedly lost in the snow.

I imagine that we will not have to wait long for the outcome of the case. April is already here. The snow has melted. The "bomb" has still not been found. It is obviously easier to be catching squatters in people's attics. And empty attics are two a penny in Moscow.

Yeltsin Aide Filatov on Political Struggle

MK0704112493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 15, 11 Apr 93 (signed to press 6 Apr 93) pp A8-9

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, leader of Russian president's administration, by observer Lyudmila Telen under "Politics" rubric; place and date not given: "President Did Not Consider Strong-Arm Options"]

[Text] [Telen] The Ninth Congress of People's Deputies and the events preceding it proved that Russia is not insured against tough civil confrontation. The politicians seemed finally to be ready to use strong-arm methods. When the television announced Yeltsin's appeal to the people, many people thought: "It has started."

[Filatov] The Congress and the Supreme Soviet placed the president and his team in a position where a certain toughness of action was necessary. We realized that defeat for the president would spell defeat for the very policy of reforms. It was necessary not just to strengthen the positions of Yeltsin himself but at the same time to advance constitutional reform. The task consisted in issuing an edict to mobilize the entire executive to conduct a nationwide vote of confidence in the president and the new constitution. In this the president and his administration did not contemplate any strong-arm scenario. All the actions of the presidential team were aimed at resolving the crisis differently.

[Telen] But many contradictions were apparent in the president's behavior. At first he declared that he had signed the edict "On Special Rule...," but then it turned out that the document had not been signed, and it finally appeared in a very unexpected version. It was then, in fact, that the "strong-arm" version came into being. Why not assume that the president deliberately made public the tough version, provoked his political opponents into revealing their cards, and then calmly knocked the trump cards from their hands by amending the edict with due regard for the Constitutional Court's complaints? In the end the vice president, the Congress, and even the Constitutional Court all found themselves discredited.... If Yeltsin had broken up the Congress at that moment or even today, public opinion would have been on his side.

[Filatov] This scenario is plausible only at first sight. In actual fact, the president acted openly and counted on the support of both the vice president and the Constitutional Court. It is not hard for me to recall the course of events. Yes, the presidential team was preparing the document in question in several versions, and this work was a secret to no one. At the final stage two drafts were left. On Saturday morning the president entrusted us with agreeing on the final text before 1400.

[Telen] The one that elicited a protest from Skokov and Rutskoy?

[Filatov] Yuriy Skokov opposed, in principle, the approach announced in the edict. In his conviction, the chief thing was to delimit powers between the center and the regions. Rutskoy had specific objections. We tried to take them into account, but at the last moment the vice president still refused to sign the edict. It has to be said that the president's appeal had already been prepared for transmission at the time of the latest amendments. The work dragged on, and the text of the edict, taking the latest comments into account, was ready only toward evening. At approximately 1800 we forwarded it to the president—he had already left by then. Incidentally, I still cannot understand the vice president's subsequent behavior—his televised statement, his indignation.... So the president's plans certainly did not include a confrontation.

[Telen] Let us consider that the president has "overfulfilled" the plan, and a new spiral of confrontation has become a fact....

[Filatov] Do you believe this to be the president's fault? I am convinced that Yeltsin's opponents would respond to any step of his the way they responded to this one: with tough statements and even tougher actions. The scenario for "war with the president" was prepared in advance. Recall, for example, the statement by Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Yuriy Voronin after the president's. Voronin was clearly relying on old methods: He ascribed to the president affirmations contrary to the actual ones and argued with things that simply were not in Yeltsin's appeal. I am in no doubt that the president was being provoked into a strong-arm scenario.

[Telen] But there are said to be people in the president's team who are inclined to push him toward fisticuffs....

[Filatov] I know of no such people. As for me, I categorically oppose this prospect on any side. For democratic power, peaceful reform is simultaneously both the means and the end. If we go against the law today, even in the name of the common good, defeat awaits us. How, after this, can we go back to the idea of a rule-of-law society? And then, the reforms—for the sake of what?

[Telen] It is customary to speak of the president's "entourage" as a unified team. Is it really monolithic?

[Filatov] "Entourage...." Who invented that stupid term?... The vice president—is he not part of the "entourage"? The premier? The government in general? The administration, the advisers? All these people are picked by the president himself.

[Telen] But you will agree that it is convenient when there is an "entourage." Any blow is deflected from the president in one direction—the "entourage" is to blame....

[Filatov] I cannot recall an instance when Yeltsin has tried to save his authority in this way. On the other hand, his opponents meticulously dub as the "entourage" precisely those people who pose the greatest danger and inconvenience to them. This is a form of political struggle....

[Telen] Not all among those who consider themselves the president's colleagues—the most ardent colleagues, at that—share your peace-loving principles. It is sad, yet understandable, when a rally "in support of the president" demands the dissolution of parliament. But what attitude should be taken to the true "Yeltsinite" with a deputy's mandate who calls for Rutskoy and Zorkin to be interned?

[Filatov] What about the attitude to individual radical democrats who, it is said, voted for the president's impeachment?

[Telen] Were there such people? But for what purpose?

[Filatov] For the same purpose of which we have spoken: to make him dissolve the Congress and provoke him into taking strong-arm actions. A simple intention. In violation of the constitution the Congress declares Yeltsin removed from power, the latter does not obey....

[Telen] And forward to the barricades?

[Filatov] These people are in thrall to dangerous illusions—it seems to them that reform can be advanced only by force. In actual fact, their behavior benefits only opponents of change.

[Telen] Under the present conditions who specifically benefits from a tough confrontation?

[Filatov] Those forces that are struggling for power but are unable to attain it. The National Salvation Front, for example.

[Telen] But you believe that the president was provoked toward the strong-arm option by, among others, those who already possess power—the Supreme Soviet, the Congress....

[Filatov] Procommunist and national-patriotic forces are using the conflict among the various branches of power for their own purposes. And they are doing so quite subtly. Particularly when they work up the atmosphere and, as it were, take into their arms deputies who do not belong to any factions. Do you recall the first vote on the question of impeachment? There were 475 votes in favor, but after hysterical agitation, 606 in favor. It seems that the psychologists worked well.... A new trend also emerged. At first Yeltsin's opponents were openly calling for a struggle against legitimate power. Today the tactic has been changed. The opposition is doing all it can, including with the help of the Supreme Soviet and the Congress, to force the president to be the first to transgress the law. And then—one blow for another.... Given this option, however, all responsibility for the consequences will lie with the president.

[Telen] From this viewpoint a danger is posed by the possible results of the referendum. If the Constitutional Court disagrees with the president over just how the votes should be counted, Yeltsin's chances of winning will fall sharply.

[Filatov] The Congress did everything to drive the president into a corner. It is not just a matter of counting votes. Look at the way the questions are worded. The deputies graciously allowed the president to stake his own political career, while putting themselves out of jeopardy. Moreover, the question about the president's socioeconomic policy was included on the voting paper for just one purpose—to make Yeltsin's positions still more vulnerable. If the Congress had been prepared for an honest struggle, it would not have put itself in a deliberately preferential position. Well, the deputies probably have grounds for their panicky fear of the question: Do you trust the deputy corps?

[Telen] What does the president's team fear most on the threshold of the referendum?

[Filatov] I will say it for the umpteenth time—provocations. A few days ago, for example, one of the deputy chairmen of the Prices Committee, on his own initiative, signed a directive increasing fuel prices. Can you imagine how it is possible to use this step on the threshold of the referendum? The president had to cancel the decision with an edict of his own. Another example: Mass personnel reductions might be carried out at certain state enterprises. It is very possible that Yeltsin's opponents will also try to time this to coincide with the referendum. A referendum against a backdrop of social tension—the president's opponents can only dream of this.

[Telen] What will Boris Yeltsin do in the event of defeat in the referendum (albeit one conducted incorrectly)? Where will he dispute the results? Will he resist the temptation to use force this time too?

[Filatov] There is still time to think about this, and this work is being done by experts on the presidential team. I still rule out the strong-arm option. If the president does not receive a vote of confidence, the most likely step will be early elections.

[Telen] Will the president run for election?

[Filatov] This question should be put to him.

Referendum Issues

Yeltsin Signs Order on 25 Apr Referendum

LD0804105193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Federation President Yeltsin today signed an order on measures to provide for an all-Russian referendum on 25 April 1993. In accordance with it, the Council of Ministers has been instructed to form a commission, within a week, to ensure preparations for and the holding of a referendum. The order admits the loss of validity of the presidential order on ensuring a referendum on the 11 April.

Referendum Commission Sets Timetable for Preparations

LD0704171193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The central commission of the all-Russian referendum has specified dates for measures connected with preparing for and holding it. Not later than 11 April Russia's population should have been notified about locations and times for voting. By 15 April it is essential to compile lists of citizens who have the right to take part in the referendum. Ballots have to be delivered to district commissions by 21 April. Just five days, that is, until 30 April, are being given to sum up the results of the referendum everywhere.

Commission Head on Referendum Preparations

PM0704095593 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 6 Apr 93 p 1

[Interview with V.I. Kazakov, chairman of the Central All-Russian Referendum Commission, by N. Garifullina under the "Topical Interview" rubric; place and date not given: "Preparing for Meeting With Voters"—first paragraph is SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Text] The forthcoming all-Russian referendum and the procedure for holding it are evoking many questions from voters. Today V.I. Kazakov, chairman of the Central All-Russian Referendum Commission, answers them.

[Garifullina] Vasiliy Ivanovich, how are the preparations for the referendum going?

[Kazakov] They are in full swing. The session of our commission on 2 April approved deadlines for measures to prepare and hold the all-Russian referendum on 25 April, the form and wording of the ballots, and the form of the ward and district commission protocols on the results of the voting.

[Garifullina] What will the ballots look like?

[Kazakov] In accordance with Article 22 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Referendum," the ballots are to be one-fourth the size of a standard sheet of typing paper. Each of the referendum's questions is printed on paper of a different color.

[Garifullina] But what if there are no facilities for this?

[Kazakov] The majority of oblasts are ready to print them in four colors, but some say that their ballots are traditionally white. In this case they may put the question's number in the top left corner of each ballot: 1, 2, 3, or 4.

[Garifullina] How many electoral districts are being created?

[Kazakov] There will be 89 of them, as in the elections to the Russian presidency two years ago.

[Garifullina] How many Russian Federation citizens will be on the electoral roll?

[Kazakov] An approximate tally gives a figure of just over 106 million citizens with the right to participate in the referendum. We have prescribed that telegraph messages giving the number of ward commissions and citizens with the right to participate in the referendum should reach the Central Commission by 15 April at the latest. Incidentally, we suppose that the total figure received then will tend to be larger. The birth rate is indeed falling, but people are growing up.

[Garifullina] Of those living abroad, who can participate in the referendum?

[Kazakov] Citizens of the Russian Federation whose citizenship is registered, who possess a Russian passport, and who have approached the ward commissions at embassies, and specialists working permanently in these countries, together with embassy staffers. According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs figures there are about 40,000 of them.

[Garifullina] How will servicemen vote?

[Kazakov] Everybody who is serving in the Russian Army will vote irrespective of where they were drafted. For example, if someone was drafted in Uzbekistan but is serving in the Western Group of Forces, he will vote along with everybody else. The same goes for students from Russian higher educational establishments, even if they are from other republics.

[Garifullina] What can you say about those who are in detention?

[Kazakov] People who are under arrest but not yet sentenced will, with the prosecutor's permission, take part in the referendum. Those serving time in places of detention will not vote.

[Garifullina] Does the president, government, or anybody else have the right to put forward their own questions for the referendum now?

[Kazakov] No, neither the president nor the government has that right. The Congress of People's Deputies put forward the questions for the all-Russian referendum. It is a different matter as far as the local authorities are concerned; they may put forward questions concerning the regions.

[Garifullina] There are small collectives in, for example, polar or hydrometeorological stations far away from civilization. How are they going to vote?

[Kazakov] We have already had such inquiries. There is a collective of eight people, a great distance is involved, and it is impossible for representatives of the commission to fly there. What can be done? Clearly, they will carry it out themselves and then relay the results to us by radio or fax.

[Garifullina] Will observers be admitted to the electoral wards?

[Kazakov] I would make an urgent request that representatives of the left, right, red, white, blue, green—of all parties, organizations, and movements come to the ward commissions and observe how the voting and counting of votes is conducted. The more monitors there are of this type, with credentials for this from their organizations, of course, the fewer violations and complaints there will be.

[Garifullina] How can you avoid falsification and rigging of the vote during the count?

[Kazakov] Judging by past experience, I would recommend members of the ward commissions to sign the ballots or place a certain mark on them. Two years ago during the presidential elections in Moscow we confiscated a batch of ballots without the commission's mark, and they were declared void.

[Garifullina] Will government structures under Vice Premier Shumeyko's leadership be involved in the preparations for the referendum, as the president insisted?

[Kazakov] No, they will not. The referendum is being conducted under the Supreme Soviet's aegis. Executive structures in the provinces should assist the ward and district commissions with transport, provide premises, telephones etc., as the executive branch has usually done here.

[Garifullina] When will the ballots arrive at the ward commissions?

[Kazakov] No earlier than three days before the vote, otherwise we will be forced to incur great expenses on security.

[Garifullina] Can additional money be enlisted from private citizens and organizations to organize the referendum?

[Kazakov] No, it cannot. The decree of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies earmarked 20,402,940,200 rubles to hold the referendum.

[Garifullina] When will the country find out the results of the voting?

[Kazakov] Two years ago, after the vote of 12 June, we reported the preliminary results of the elections of the Russian president as early as 18 June. Going by this, we will clearly make the results public this time during the first days of May.

Statesmen, Public Figures Establish 'Referendum Council'

OW0704115393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of well-known statesmen and public figures from Russia have set up an April 25 Referendum Council and called on all supporters of the president to set up similar local committees throughout Russia.

Their statement went on to say that without unity of action before the referendum there was a likelihood that "revanchist forces would push the country back into the totalitarian past. At this critical moment all who want Russia to develop along democratic and civilized lines cannot afford lack of unity." The authors of the document call for coordination of action, leaving insignificant differences aside.

"Even though not every step undertaken by the president is to our liking, we are confident that if he is supported by the people he will act more resolutely, effectively, and vigorously in pursuing the course of democratic change. By supporting the president we will help his and our own efforts to make the transition to normal life speedier," the declaration continued.

Its signatories called on Russians to answer yes to at least two questions asked by the president, on confidence in the president himself and on early elections for people's deputies.

The declaration was signed by Yuriy Afanasyev, Yelena Bonner, Vladimir Bukovskiy, Dmitriy Volkogonov, Yegor Gaydar, Aleksandr Gelman, Aleksey Golovkov, Vladimir Dashkevich, Vladimir Kadannikov, Gary Kasparov, Sergey Kovalyov, Sergey Krasavchenko, Andrey Makarov, Arkadiy Murashev, Gavriil Popov, Mstislav Rostropovich, Innokentiy Smoktunovskiy, Andrey Smirnov, Mikhail Ulyanov, Boris Fedorov, Petr Filippov, Gennadiy Khazanov, Anatoliy Chubays, and Aleksandr Yakovlev.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1157 GMT on 7 April adds Gennadiy Burbulis as a signatory to the declaration.]

Criticism of Second Referendum Question Rebutted

PM0704143093 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 Single Edition p 2

[Aleksey Vorobyev commentary: "Question Can Be Changed. But What About the Essence?"]

[Text] Some people think that the most controversial of the questions submitted for the referendum is Question No. 2, which proposes that citizens of Russia express their view of the socioeconomic policy pursued by the president and government since 1992.

Back at the Congress Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray cast doubt on the constitutionality of this question. He tried to prove to deputies that, since the law on referendums prohibits asking the people's opinion of the budget, taxes, and other financial and economic matters, the formula proposed was incorrect.

It is hard to dispute the legal niceties with such a famous lawyer—the verdict should be delivered by the relevant authorities. Although we would permit ourselves to note that the terms contained in most of our Russian laws are too ambiguous and poorly defined for any rulings by the authorities to be categorical or irreproachable.

There is another argument—proposed by the journalist Otto Latsis—against the second question. It boils down to the fact that in the Russian economy there is now no way of telling where the consequences of the pernicious actions of the Ryzhkov and Pavlov Union governments end and where the results of the Gaydar (and, consequently, presidential) reforms begin.

Once again the debate is complex and could be very far-reaching—a simple reply would be by no means exhaustive. But we will give one nonetheless: The president is responsible at least for the fact that his reform policy has never yet been set out in detail by anyone. Consequently, it is a problem today to separate the Gaydar wheat from the parliamentarians' chaff and to sort out just who should be made responsible for which consequences.

Agreeing in principle that Question No. 2 is formulated somewhat vaguely, we will try to explain its appearance and return for this purpose to Question No. 1, which was drawn up by the presidential team.

Thus, "Do you have confidence in Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin?" It is all so easy. Even too easy. Excuse me, what are we confident about? In what connection? And for how long? You can have confidence in someone to keep your place in a food line. You can risk asking them to repair your foreign tape recorder. And you can trust them with the keys to your apartment while you are away.

These are the profoundly personal and very subjective ideas of confidence that voters will be taking to the polling booths. Some will risk entrusting the fate of the country and the future of their children to Boris Nikolayevich, some will hope that he will not leave the people without any bread next winter, while others will merely hope that B. Yeltsin will not let "those damn commies" reemerge. There will be almost as many permutations as there will be people voting "Yes," and the president himself will probably select his own personal version.

He will ultimately have to be guided by his own version if the people give him a vote of confidence. But what guarantee is there that his permutation will coincide even partially with our multiple permutations?

This guarantee—albeit an extremely tiny one—lies in the second question. It will help even an uneducated rural babushka accustomed to automatically trusting any ruler to give at least a moment's thought to just what she is entrusting to Yeltsin. And to what should not be entrusted to him, even with the blindest Russian faith in our good father the czar.

For all its awkwardness the second question is designed to make up for the awkwardness or intentional cunning of the first. It should help to prevent people voting unthinkingly or complacently.

People will recall how they delighted in Boris Nikolayevich's election victory, how avidly they listened to him promise a better life, and how they have actually been living for the past 18 months. It is possible that even after this Russian citizens will vote for their president. But it will be a conscious civic choice, reinforced by a determination to endure new burdens and privations for the sake of the reforms proclaimed by the president.

Free Russia Member Says Early Elections 'Almost Inevitable'

LD0704130393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correpondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The chief result of the Ninth Congress of the People's Deputies of Russia is that it has made early elections almost inevitable. The two branches of power have come to realise that such elections are a must and that a new election of president and deputies will provide a chance to get out of the "impasse" and the possibility to achieve stability, Grigoriy Vodolazov, dr. of science (philosophy), member of the board of the Free Russia People's Party and director of the Gorbachev Foundation's scientific project "From Totalitarianism to Democracy", told ITAR-TASS.

Vodolazov is confident that the upcoming referendum will involve more than 50 per cent of the electorate if no extraordinary events occur before April 25.

"Passions are being deliberately fanned up and people are getting the impression that it is necessary urgently to save the situation and resolve the conflict, for otherwise we would find ourselves on the verge of a civil war," Vodolazov said. In his view, a "cold" civil war is already under way but that there would never be a shooting civil war in Russia.

The demand that more than 50 per cent of the vote must be polled to have the referendum questions endorsed is described by Vodolazov as "slyness on the part of the deputies' corps" who would like to delay an election.

Such condition may result in a situation when there would be no needed number of votes on any question. But a referendum, in his view, "is not so much of legal importance as of moral, psychological and political one" because it will reveal basic trends in the public opinion.

Vodolazov's forecast is that following an early election of the two branches of power, a newly-elected parliament would see a merger of presidential and parliamentary teams" and "the removal of confrontation and the restoration of a certain manageability in the country".

In the present not-too-democratic situation—"we have not moved far from totalitarianism on the way to democracy", as the scientist said—none of politicians can compete against Boris Yeltsin. "I think he will be reelected", Vodolazov said.

A new presidential team, in his view, will draw more people who are prepared to work constructively. All this will provide an opportunity to form a coalition government, a government of professionals but representing various political parties.

This would be the most favourable outcome. But in any case a reversion to the totalitarian system and to the administrative command economic management is impossible," Vodolazov emphasised. [no opening quotation mark as received]

Civic Union Calls For Early General Elections

LD0704133493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—"Whatever the outcome of the referendum on April 25, it will not resolve the political crisis in Russia," Civic Union Executive Committee Chairman Vasiliy Lipitskiy said. The only way out of the crisis is through pre-term elections of the president and people's deputies, he stressed.

The referendum is unlikely to yield results which will be legally impeccable from the point of view of their interpretation, Lipitskiy told ITAR-TASS.

The Civic Union was not happy about the idea of a referendum from the outset, he recalled. He favoured early elections of the president and people's deputies instead, best of all in early autumn of 1993.

Asked whether the Civic Union will be able to take part in the elections in a single bloc after differences have surfaced in the views of the leaders—Aleksandr Rutskoy, Arkadiy Volskiy and the leaders of the parliament faction "Change - New Policy", Lipitskiy said that these differences should not be overestimated. There is no doubting the bloc's strategic unity, he said.

Democratic Lawmakers Against Early Presidential Elections

LD0704150493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—Russian democratic lawmakers are against early presidential elections, but are sure that new parliamentary elections are necessary.

Lev Ponomaryov told a meeting of the Coalition of Reforms parliamentary group that the "Democratic Russia" group calls on the people to say "yes" to three questions of the April 25 referendum and one "no".

The negative answer should be given to the question about an early presidential election.

Ponomaryov qualified Boris Yeltsin's appeal to the people to say "yes" to all the four questions as a "highly moral position", but added that it is dangerous to reelect both branches of authority at a time.

The "Accord for Progress" group shares the opinion. Its coordinator Yuriy Nesterov said early presidential election is possible in principle, but it should be first fixed not in acting, but in a new Russian constituion.

Early presidential election "is sure to disorganise the executive authority from the top to the bottom", he said.

The Coalition of Reforms group said its major task is to overcome popular indifference and make people come to the polls.

Rumyantsev Sees Elections for Congress Likely

MK0704135693 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 15, 11 Apr 93 (signed to press 6 April) p A4

[Unattributed report under "Quote" rubric: "'... Congress' Fate Will Most Likely Be Decided in June... If Irrationalism Wins—It Will Have To Be Reelected, There Is No Getting Away From It..."]

[Text] When talking about "irrationalism" Oleg Rumyantsev, senior secretary of the Russian Federation Constitutional Commission, meant the opposition's desire to preserve the Congress of People's Deputies as the source of all three branches of power, "standing above them." An affirmative answer from voters to the fourth question in the referendum about the need to hold early deputies' elections does not at all entail the abolition of the system of "the Congress plus the Supreme Soviet." The principal question—where people should be elected to—will have to be decided by parliament after the referendum, if it takes place. The draft of the new constitution gives an unequivocal answer: to a bilateral parliament. Amendments to the currently existing constitution, if the June Congress decides to confine itself to them, might not affect the system of power at all.

"The president must persistently propose the draft of the new constitution prepared by the commission," Rumyantsev believes. The difficulty, however, is that its leadership (Chairman Boris Yeltsin, Deputy Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov) "is not in dialogue mode." That means it is generally hard to predict which proposals this commission could put forward in the foreseeable future...

In an interview with MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, Oleg Rumyantsev conjectured that the deputies could still decide to abolish the Congress, but they will most likely decide to do the easiest thing: They will declare new elections for parliament, investing it with the powers of both the present Supreme Soviet and the present Congress. Then, according to Rumyantsev, we will get "the same Congress, called the Supreme Soviet, which has fewer members and sits every day."

Opposition Holds Press Conference on Referendum

PM0704110193 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 2

[N. Garifullina report: "Under A Big Question Mark"]

[Text] Will the all-Russian referendum, on the holding of which the Ninth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies adopted a decree and on which the president and his team, including the ruling "Democratic Russia" bloc, were so insistent, be held 25 April? Strange as it may seem, there are already grounds for such doubts, and they are coming from the presidential side.

"It is most likely that some kind of political countercampaign—the same presidential ballot—will be launched directly at the referendum so that the two clash and scuttle one another." This, the most probable scenario of the development of events, was presented by Vladimir Isakov, coordinator of the "Russian Unity" bloc, at the opposition's traditional Thursday [1 April] press conference. In his opinion, many signs indicate that active preparation is under way for precisely this turn of events.

Russian People's Deputy Ilya Kostantinov, chairman of the National Salvation Front, also expressed his vision of imminent events. In his opinion, the president in another Saturday address could claim that the Congress' decisions contravene the Constitution, and for that reason declare them invalid. Straight after this there could be mass rallies and a situation close to siege, and, as a consequence of the sharply deteriorated political situation, the breakdown of the referendum.

Ilya Konstantinov reported that the Russian Ministry of Justice has registered the National Salvation Front and read out its appeal in connection with the forthcoming referendum. The National Salvation Front calls on Russians to say "no" to the question "Do you have confidence in Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin?"

Poll on People's Trust in Politicians, Desire for Elections

MK0704112093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 7 Apr 93 p 1

[Oleg Savelyev report on 5 April 1993 "flash poll" of 2,428 Moscow inhabitants carried out by Moscow section of the All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions (Komkon-2): "Whom Do You Trust?"]

[Text] The distribution of replies to some of the questions in this research was cited in percentages.

"Whom would you trust to extricate the country from the current economic and political crisis: the current Supreme Soviet membership or the president?"

The Supreme Soviet	8
The president	56
Neither	28
Hard to say, don't know	8

"What do you think, should early elections of a new Russian Supreme Soviet membership be held?"

	January	April
No	27	15
Yes	49	70
Hard to say, don't know	24	15

"What about early Russian presidential elections?"

	January	April
No	52	53
Yes	29	35
Hard to say, don't know	19	12

Poll Shows Yeltsin as Popular as Before 1991 Election

MK0604124293 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 6 Apr 93 p 2

[Oleg Savelyev report: "Boris Yeltsin Has Not Exhausted Himself, Muscovites Say"]

[Text] Last weekend, the Moscow branch of the National Public Opinion Studies Center called Concon-2 conducted a representative poll among 1,430 residents of the capital at the request of POSTFAKTUM news agency. According to the survey, 72 percent of Muscovites are planning to take part in the referendum scheduled for 25 April, and 73 percent of the capital residents are going to answer "Yes" to the first question on confidence in Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

It seemed to me as if I had already seen these figures somewhere and, after leafing through a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS file dating back two years ago I found in the issue of 1 June 1991 a report on a poll conducted on the eve of elections for the Russian presidency by that same service and using similar methods. At that time, 74 percent of those polled planned to turn out for the elections and 73 percent (!) of them said that they would vote for Boris Yeltsin. It was nearly that same percentage that participated in the presidential elections at which Boris Yeltsin won 72 percent of the votes!

Let us return, however, to the latest poll and Muscovites' opinions about the president. Answers to the question: "Do you think that Boris Yeltsin is the leader the people need now, or has he exhausted himself and a new democratic leader should replace him, or should the democrats be replaced by different political forces?" were spread as follows (in percentage points):

Yeltsin is the leader the people need	50
A new democratic leader is needed	24
Different political forces are needed	16
Do not know	10

Entrepreneurs, housewives, the military and militia officers, and generally women and those aged 40 years and over, more often than others, think that Boris Yeltsin's leadership is optimal.

Those who are relatively more inclined to have a different, albeit a democratic, leader include those same military and militia officers (very often this category of voters gives the largest number of conflicting answers on substance and contains very few of those who do not know), and also professionals, students, managers of various ranks and generally men, persons with a high level of education, and those aged under 26.

More often than others, civil servants without specialized education were against any democratic leader at all. It should be noted, as a matter of fact, that judging by virtually any poll this is "the attacking class" [proletariat] in all but name. To all appearances, this sector of the population is a custodian of conservative ideas because these people are largely involved in the accounting and distribution of various benefits and realize that once the across-the-board state ownership is dismantled and new economic relations are in place, they will not be needed in so huge a quantity.

Another question of that same poll on a similar subject: "Why do you think the reforms Boris Yeltsin is speaking about do not deliver the promised goods?" produced the following breakdown of answers:

Because of the resistance of reform opponents	38
Because of Yeltsin's inconsistency	25
Results will show gradually	13
This is a wrong path	14
Do not know	10

Those inclined to ascribe the failures to the resistance of reform opponents are in the first place the military and militia officers, entrepreneurs, pensioners, and generally those polled with a low educational level and those aged 55 years and over.

Housewives, civil servants, unemployed, and generally men and persons aged under 56 and those with a high educational level are more eager to expose Boris Yeltsin's inconsistency.

Strange as it may seem, students and generally those polled among young age groups believe that the reforms' results are to show themselves gradually.

Advocates of the idea that the ongoing reform was a wrong path to take dominated among managers of various levels and generally among men and those polled aged 40 years and over.

Military Issues

Security Ministry Official Interviewed on Wiretapping

MK0804095093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Apr 93 p 1

[Interview with Aleksandr Zhilin, deputy chief of the Russian Security Ministry operational and technical directorate, conducted by Nikolay Rafayenko and Oleg Rubnikovich; place and date not given; under the rubric "Special Services": "Total Eavesdropping Impossible. State Security Has Neither Funds Nor Possibilities for That"]

[Text] Representatives of the Russian special services do not appear frequently in the pages of printed media. A special veil of secrecy still hangs over one of the most specific subdivisions of the Security Ministry—the Operational and Technical Directorate. Questions from your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondents are answered by Aleksandr Zhilin, deputy chief of the Russian Security Ministry Operational and Technical Directorate.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] There is a firm popular conviction that the former KGB, today's Security Ministry, exercises total telephone control over all and everything.

[Zhilin] Global monitoring is physically impossible. We do not have either the personnel or the money to do that. In Moscow, our service can wiretap simultaneously a total of up to 1,000 persons, and up to 2,500 all over Russia.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] What is the procedure for getting a telephone monitored?

[Zhilin] This is a rather complicated procedure—no word of mouth instructions apply here. In order to wiretap conversations between two subscribers, it is necessary for the Security Ministry to press into service seven to eight people. Each of them is supposed to check against his or her official regulations the legitimacy of this undertaking—whether the prosecutor's approval is authentic, and so on.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Is this procedure really strictly observed in practice?

[Zhilin] Always. Only in exceptional cases when, for example, a terrorist act is being planned, the monitoring can be done without a prosecutor's sanction, but he must be informed of the fact within 24 hours.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] From whom may the initiative to have a telephone tapped come?

[Zhilin] From an operative alone. He submits a request to his superior, and the latter secures a sanction from the prosecutor. Only after this does the document get registered with the Security Ministry Operational and Technical Directorate, which arranges for wiretapping of the subscriber. Importantly, since the request specifies a particular person, we have no right to tape conversations of his family members.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Which persons does the Security Ministry have no right to wiretap under any circumstances?

[Zhilin] The old official instructions listed among such persons Politburo and Central Committee members, and deputies. Today the taboo covers the president, government members, and deputies.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] How much does the eavesdropping against one person by your service cost the state?

[Zhilin] The service was set up and developed over several decades, and it is difficult to speak about costs at the moment. As of early 1993, this operation cost 100,000 rubles a year. [interview ends]

A news briefing on this topic will take place in the Security Ministry today.

Strategic Rocket Troop Manpower Levels 'Unchanged'

PM0704155993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Report by Boris Kudryavov under the general heading "I Want To Join the Rocket Troops..."]

[Text] Hardly anyone can doubt that the Strategic Rocket Troops are a major force. Not for nothing is it customary to consider this branch of the Armed Forces as the guarantor of the state's military might, but hardly anyone suspects that the state allocates only 5-6 percent of the defense budget to the maintenance of the rocket troops. The cheapest branch of the Armed Forces in their comparatively short history—34 years—has nevertheless won the reputation as one of the most intellectual components of the Army. The aggregate of military men with diplomas is significantly higher than in any other branches of the forces. This, you will understand, is connected with the quantity and quality of modern technical devices with which it is equipped. An interesting detail: 100 percent of graduates from rocket schools could work in the national economy—so wide and universal is the profile of specialities they receive in Strategic Rocket Troops schools.

Unfortunately, it must be observed that the "wind of change" has swept the valiant rocket troops quite seriously. In connection with the adoption of decisions on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons there has been a marked spate among professional rocket troops and young people preparing for the esteemed service of thoughts on the lines: "Once they reduce the missiles, they can reduce us too!" In actual fact, it turns out that this is far from true. Despite the cuts in technical systems the number of personnel in the Strategic Rocket Troops remains virtually unchanged.

But problems with recruitment for rocket troop schools remain. They are typical today for perhaps all higher military academic establishments in Russia. Above all this is connected with the decline of the prestige of military service. However, time puts everything in its proper place and the noble profession of defender of the Fatherland, in the opinion of many, is already returning to the prestigious category.

"I Want To Join the Rocket Troops"—our headline is far from accidental. Because, having visited four of Russia's rocket troop schools—in Rostov, Stavropol, Krasnodar, and Serpukhov—and the F.E. Dzerzhinskiy Military Academy, I have satisfied myself clearly that the job of training future rockets troops officers is set at a very high standard. After all, ensuring the country's nuclear security is a highly important task.

Moscow Air Defense Men Steal Rocket Microcircuits

LD0704214693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1836 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Valeriy Litvinenko]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—A certain Captain B., Junior Sergeant T. and co. from one of the Moscow military district air defence units carried out a kind of their own "disarmament" not mentioned in the anti-rocket defence treaty for their personal gains.

They surreptiously removed 650 microcircuit cards containing precious metals (gold and platinum) worth 20 million rubles from missile complexes which were kept in standby storages.

Investigators of the military procurator's office established that the suspects had sold these stolen microcircuits on the Tishinski market in Moscow.

During a search carried out in their flats state property worth 3.5 million rubles was confiscated, including unsold microcircuits with precious metal contents.

In addition to this, the "repentant" Captain B. voluntarily surrendered U.S. dollar bills which he was keeping in a hiding-place, and also confessed in his statement about ten other thefts, unknown to investigators, of microcircuit cards in collusion with other persons.

The thieves have been arrested. The Balashikhin garrison militrary procurator's office is investigating into the case.

Dismantling of Nuclear Submarines for Scrap Viewed

LD0704180093

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT on 7 April, in its "Vesti" newscast, broadcasts a 3-minute report from the city of Bolshoy Kamen, the center of Shkotovskiy rayon in Maritime Kray.

The report begins with the video showing a helicopter flying over urban streets, cutting to shots of a five-storey white office block topped by a red star. Then camera then shows workers with oxy-acetylene torches cutting up the hull of a submarine. The name "Spravedlivyy" can just be made out on the bow of a vessel in the background. The correspondent says this is the "top-secret" Zvezda ship repair yard and a Russian-American joint venture, called "Stella," has been set up to handle the work. The enterprise is headed by Vladimir Rezikov, described by the correspondent as an experienced engineer who has spent over 20 years working with nuclear power plants and a director of the "Stella" joint enterprise. The camera cuts to show Rezikov being interviewed.

He says that it costs 180 million rubles [R] to dismantle a single nuclear submarine, and goes on to say that on the domestic market the resulting scrap fetches less than R50 million, and this is at market prices, not the prices paid by the Vtorchermet recycling organization. Therefore, he says, about R130-140 million has to come out of the state budget, that is, from the Russian Government.

However, Rezikov adds, if "Stella" markets the scrap outside the country, it earns a small profit—about R50 million—after all overheads have been deducted. More than $100,000—the equivalent of over R60 million—are contributed to the Russian budget in the form of export duty. This is advantageous to the enterprise, which covers its costs, and to the Russian Government, which obtains hard currency.

Rezikov points out that no military secrets are given away and no American personnel are working at Bolshoy Kamen, although American equipment is being used. All the employees are Russian, he says. To enable the firm to increase the number of submarines it dismantles each year, the Russian Government is allowing it to break up four nuclear submarines without charging export duty on the scrap. This will make it possible to import more productive equipment and to process more nuclear submarines.

In the future interests of the firm, Rezikov says, the U.S. side of the joint venture has renounced its share of the 1993-94 profits.

The report concludes with shots of the stern section of a submarine, the conning-tower, and the silhouettes of six missile shafts

General Dudnik on Problems Afflicting Army, Draft

MK0804083693 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 15, 11 Apr 93 (signed to press 6 Apr 93) p A4

[Article by General Vladimir Dudnik under "Forecast" rubric: "The General Staff Warns..."]

[Text] On 2 April Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin issued an edict on the new draft for military service. The way in which it is implemented will determine many things for the Russian Army.

Russian troops are still halfway short of being brought up to full strength. According to the General Staff's forecast, this figure will be further reduced by 15 to 18 percent after the spring draft. The recruitment of volunteers will hardly help. The Army has only 18,000 of them out of a planned 100,000. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has concluded: "Contract recruitment has not justified itself."

Nobody has joined the Navy's ships as volunteer sailors and petty officers. An analysis of the reasons has not been submitted to parliament or the government. Incidentally, the Defense Ministry's own sociological service has warned that the adopted scheme of contract recruitment into the Army will not work. Among the fall 1992 recruits only 28 percent of respondents expressed their willingness to join the most prestigious airborne troops units (the Army's "spetsnaz" [special-purpose troops]) as "professionals."

Does this signify the fallaciousness of the actual idea of contract service, or to be more precise, of a professional army? An independent expert analysis, carried out by Captain First Rank Andrey Piliponskiy, a well-known sociologist, in 56 higher educational establishments and 30 military units showed that over 50 percent of young men under 25 years of age approve of the idea of a professional army and are prepared to serve in it. Only 9 percent of the same respondents, however, would agree to serve voluntarily in the existing Army. Why do they not want to? The low prestige of service was cited by 66 percent, the unwillingness to waste time by 61 percent, and the fear of taunts and degradation by 51 percent.

For a long time experts have been repeatedly warning general officers: The Soviet Army cannot be reorganized into a new state's modern armed forces by timid and uncoordinated measures spun out over 15 or more years. According to the ministry's scenario, "the transformation of the Armed Forces" is a matter for the third stage of reform and should be completed by approximately 2005.

All the well-known military reforms in Russia have taken place in the course of seven years. But we have spent these seven years talking about military reform. What is now happening with contract recruitment is not bringing us closer toward a professional army but is compromising the very idea. The old army system swallows up the volunteers distributed to units. It is necessary to set up centers for materializing an entirely new Russian Army in another way: integral companies, battalions, and regiments. As was done, for instance, by Peter I, who did not try "to reform" the streltsy [members of military corps instituted by Ivan the Terrible] but created completely new—"poteshnyye" [boy-soldier]—forces.

Officials Say Border 'Transparency' Lowers Security

OW0704223993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1921 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Over the last 50 years Russia's security has not been so low as it is today, Ippolit Ksenofontov, chief of Russia's Security Ministry's information-analytical department, declared on Wednesday [7 April] at a scientific-practical conference "Russia's state border: problems and ways to solve them." In Ksenofontov's words, the transparency of separate sections of Russia's border is the cause of serious encroachments on the state's interests, it opens wide opportunities for foreign special services to enter the country, for illegal migration of foreign citizens, the uncontrolled export of raw materials and the import of arms.

Ksenofontov believes that security of the Russian borders can be increased by strengthening contacts with the former USSR republics. From the geopolitical point of view, Russia should be interested in integration with CIS countries, primarily in the fields of economy, defense, and security, Ksenofontov emphasized. He said that this would increase the security of the state and particularly of its borders.

Valeriy Draganov, deputy chairman of State customs committee, believes that due to the transparency of borders, lack of customs' regulations and border control with the former Soviet republics "Russia is turning into a waste pit. Bad products and goods of poor quality are thrown into Russia." He underlined that today the law enforcement bodies have focused their attention on protection of economic interests.

Economic Issues

Export Monopoly for Strategic Raw Materials Debated

LD0704145293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Russian Government is now debating re-establishing, from early 1994, a partial state monopoly on the export of strategically important raw materials. This was announced by the Russian minister for foreign economic relations, Sergey Glazyev, at today's meeting of the ministry collegium.

According to Glazyev, it is hardly possible to restore a complete state monopoly at present. The monopoly scheme under discussion is most likely to be as follows: the state will sign contracts with a small group of organizations authorising them to control export monopoly on strategically important raw materials, including fuel and energy resources and non-ferrous metals. In contrast to the previous system practised by the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, which was based on the principle "one product - one firm", the new scheme envisages that some three to five trade companies will be engaged in exporting goods of a specific category.

Rate of Increase in Prices Slows Slightly in Mar

PM0804094593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Apr 93 p 1

[Yuriy Pakhomov article under the "Prices" rubric: "Ruble 'Sheds' Half Its Value in Three Months"]

[Text] The last week of March added the final touches to the overall picture of price changes not only for March but for the first quarter of this year and clarified the general situation that has developed in the market for consumer goods and services.

According to the weekly observations of the Russian State Committee for Statistics, the rate of price hikes slowed in March: Foodstuffs rose by 16 percent (23.7 percent in February, 25.4 percent in January). This slowdown is due to the government's measures for the social protection of the population—the adoption of the 3 February decree on regulating prices of bread and bread products, which, as we know, form a considerable part of the population's overall spending. As a result March saw the lowest recorded rise in prices for these products—7.8 percent. Prices for meat, milk, and fish products, eggs, sugar, confectionery, and vegetables rose more significantly—by 15-20 percent.

In the past three months the population's food supply has improved somewhat—the number of cities previously without beef, pork, rice, pasta products, and certain types of dairy products in the city trade network almost halved.

But overall the consumer price index for the first quarter was depressing, at 184 percent (according to preliminary data). That means that the contents of each Russian's purse are now worth only a little over half what they were at the beginning of the year. Such are the grim realities of inflation.

In March the rise in prices for nonfood goods also slowed down. Sewn goods, for example, rose by 16.3 percent, whereas in February they rose by 38 percent and in January by 25.5 percent. Prices for footwear rose by 21 percent in March and for cultural and everyday goods by 18 percent.

But the cost of paid services rose fastest of all—on average by 21 percent—including 37 percent for bathhouses, 30 percent for dry cleaning, around 30 percent for health care, and 27 percent for hotels.

Government To Be Charged Commercial Rate for Credit

LD0704123693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0425 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Interview with Petr Korotkov, chairman of board of Russian National Commercial Bank, by correspondent Sergey Ageyev; place and date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Now that the interest rate charged by the Central Bank on credit which it advances to commercial banks has been raised to 100 percent, it is expected that the interest rate on interbank credit will also increase—to 128-130 percent.

[Ageyev] The Central Bank's interest rate for credit has been raised to 100 percent. Its penalty rate has gone up to 200 percent. How justified are these figures?

[Korotkov] I would not look at the issue from that angle. You can quote any figures you like. What lies behind them is more important. What is the economic justification for these figures? I do not see any justification for these figures at the present time. The market rate for credit resources at the moment is 150-170 percent. So why has the Central Bank raised the rate to 100 percent, sorry, 200 percent for negative balances? Where have these figures come from? This is another manifestation of an administrative approach to economics. The economy is a self-regulating mechanism, just like anything else.

[Ageyev] It has been agreed that the Central Bank of Russia will advance credit to the government on the same conditions as to commercial banks. From now on, the Russian Federation Finance Ministry obtains money at an annual rate of eight percent. It will now have to pay 100 percent for credit.

Petroleum Production Drops 17 Percent in 1st Quarter

OW0704224093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1921 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia has produced 85.4 Mn [million] tons of oil in the first quarter of 1993 which is 17 percent less than in the same period last year (104.1 Mn tons). Gas production has fallen 2 percent from 167.3 Bn [billion] cubic meters to 164.2 Bn.

Export of petroleum, according to the Ministry of the Economy, has surged up a third in the first 3 months of the year from 12.7 Mn tons at the same period last year to 18.6 Mn. Gas exports have amounted to 25.7 Bn cubic meters which is more than the 22.6 Bn in 1992.

At the same time, according to estimates by the Ministry of Fuel and Energetics, the production of petroleum in the first quarter of 1993 was only 88.864 Mn tons, 85 percent of last year's first quarter volume.

Foreign Trade Turnover in 1992 Decreases

LD0704230893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1944 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By Business-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow, Apr 7 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's total foreign trade turnover in 1992 was 80 billion U.S. dollars, with exports going down to 45 billion U.S. dollars and imports—down to 35 billion U.S. dollars as compared with 1991. These figures were reported by Vladimir Golyakov, head of the chief economic department of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, at a collegium of the ministry today.

According to experts who prepared these statistical data, the decline in volumes of foreign trade turnover and deterioration of its structure last year were affected by the elimination of the former system of state financing of export operations and granting the right of conducting export and import operations to all subjects engaged in this line of business.

The situation was intensified by the absence of necessary customs, currency, tax and export control, the sharp aggravation of a financial state of the majority of Russian exporters and importers because of an unprecedented price rise and the incapability of the Russian banking system to work satisfactorily in the conditions of high inflation.

Regional Affairs

Further on Accident at Tomsk-7 Nuclear Facility

Energy Minister Interviewed

OW0704131593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report on "exclusive interview" with Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov by an unidentified NHK reporter in Moscow; date not given; from the "NHK News" program—Mikhaylov speaks in Russian with Japanese subtitles; his remarks have been translated from the Russian]

[Excerpt] Regarding the accident that occurred at a nuclear facility in Tomsk-7 on 6 April, Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov and the State Emergency Committee have disclosed that the explosion took place in a tank containing a uranium solution. In an exclusive interview with NHK, the minister explained that the temperature of spent nuclear fuel, which was being stored six meters below the ground, increased rapidly after it mixed with nitric acid. He said that at the time of the accident, no workers were close by because of lunch hour, adding that the explosion could not be prevented.

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] A discharge of steam or gas that was generated by this reaction escaped from the building after shattering windows and knocking down part of a light wall. A fire also started because there was kerosene in the area, and there was probably an electrical short circuit somewhere. The fire was extinguished virtually within minutes, within five minutes. [end recording]

Also, Mr. Mikhaylov said that 3-8 curies of radioactivity was released into the air. He said that the explosion occurred in a tank containing a uranium solution. The explosion blew off the roof and walls of the facility and radiation leaked outside. According to a spokesman for the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, several fire fighters were exposed to the radioactive leak. A countermeasure headquarters has been established at Tomsk-7 and citizens are working to eliminate the radiation. So far, 500,000 Tomsk citizens have not been evacuated. Meanwhile, in an interview with NHK, Mr. Vladimir [name as heard], vice chairman of the State Emergency Committee, said that the explosion took place at the stage where the radioactive isotope level had been lowered to one-in-10,000. He said radiation was spread over an area of 1,000 square meters, but he added that the level would not affect citizens. He also said that it would take several days to eliminate the radiation.

A leak of 3-8 curies of radioactivity, which the Russian side has announced, equals 50-20 percent of the leak that occurred at the Three-Mile Island nuclear power facility in the United States in 1979. [passage omitted]

Institute Cannot Give 'Detailed Appraisal'

LD0704225093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Specialists at the Kurchatov Institute cannot give a detailed appraisal of yesterday's accident at the Siberian chemical plant (Tomsk-7), because they do not have full information on the quantitative composition of the solution in the blown-out tank. They believe it contained waste from the chemical processing of fuel composed of uranium of medium radioactivity. At Kurchatov Institute, a Russian research center, it was explained to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that less rigorous rules apply for storage of this type of waste than for radioactive waste which goes through the reactor. Kurchatov Institute was one of the developers of the reactors at the Siberian chemical plant—uranium-graphite industrial reactors, the prototypes of nuclear power station reactors such as the RBMK (Chernobyl type). The institute, however, does not have anything to do with the chemical processes taking place outside the reactors. Russia's minister for the environment and natural resources, Viktor Danilov-Danilyan, declined to predict the effects of the Tomsk-7 accident on the environment, explaining that his department does not monitor the environment in industrial areas and that industrial enterprises are individually responsible for any pollution of their territory.

Radiation Traces Stretch Out 8 Km

OW0704172893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Inspectors from the Russian State Atomic Administration report that the explosion of a container of radioactive materials at the Sibirsk Chemical Center on April 6 has caused radiation traces in an area up to 8 km long and 1 km wide.

The maximum radiation in the contaminated area is 400 micro roentgens per hour, at a distance of 1.5-2 km from the site of the explosion. The radiation level on the territory of the Sibirsk Chemical Center is 180 micro roentgens per second.

A working commission is working at the center in conjunction with representatives from the State Atomic Administration. No one has been severely contaminated.

Explosion in Tomsk-7 Has Not Influenced Radiation Situation in Novosibirsk

Valeriy Bayev, chief of civil defense headquarters' operative section in the Novosibirsk province, reported to Interfax that as of 15:00 local time on April 7, the radiation situation in Novosibirsk has not changed in comparison with its everyday level, 10-15 microroentgen/hour. In Bayev's words, the radioactive cloud, formed as a result of an explosion of a tank with radioactive materials on April 6 in Tomsk-7, has not moved in the direction of Novosibirsk. The distance between two cities constitutes 250 kilometers.

Bayev indicated that the explosion at the chemical complex in Tomsk-7 can be compared with the explosion in Chelyabinsk in 1977. According to the Novosibirsk civil defense headquarters, at 5:00 Tomsk time the radiation level in Tomsk-7 constituted 160 microroentgen/hour. However, the leader of headquarters has said that according to the Tomsk sanitary-epidemiological service, the radiation level exceeds the above mentioned number by several times.

Radiation Level Reported Safe

LD0704194393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1919 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The level of radiation in the zone of spreading the outburst beyond the limits of the Sibirskiy chemical industry complex, which had an accident on Tuesday [6 April], does not exceed 400 microroentgen per hour, representatives of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations told a news conference in Tomsk-7 today. According to experts' estimates, the area of radioactive contamination is 200 square kilometers and includes part of the industrial zone of the chemical complex, a tract of forest and part of a highway. There are no permanent residents in the zone of increased radioactivity.

The only inhabited locality—Georgievka settlement, situated 22 kilometers from the chemical industry complex, has a radiation background level of 35 microroentgen per hour while a natural radiation background level is 12 microroentgen per hour which is not dangerous to the health of twenty residents. An emergency group carried out disactivation of the highway bringing radiation down to a safe level.

According to data reported by the representatives of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations, the level of radiation in Tomsk and other populated localities does not exceed a natural background level.

Civil Defense Center Cited

LD0804100493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have received a report from the West Siberian Civil Defense Center. According to data, as of 0600 GMT, the document states, the information about the movement of the radioactive cloud toward Krasnoyarsk Kray away from the site of the blast in Tomsk had not been confirmed by air and ground radiation intelligence.

In the words of Anatoliy Ulanov, operational duty officer of the West Siberian Civil Defense Center, the section of the Tomsk-Samus road 29 km from the site of the explosion remains the only source of serious radioactive contamination. The radiation level there on the first day of the accident was 400 microroentgen per hour, exceeding the norm by 20 times. Today, as a result of the work that has been carried out and the natural decay of radioactive substances, the level has decreased threefold. According to Ulanov, the accident cleanup team was exposed not to the annual dose but to the maximum permitted daily dose of radiation.

Further on Abolishment of Presidency in Mordovia

Reform Coalition Head Comments

OW0704144393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Mordovian parliament's decision to abolish presidency is the logical continuation of the sharp confrontation between the executive and legislative authority at the federal level, Russian Deputy Vladimir Lysenko, who is a leader of the parliamentary reform coalition, told Interfax.

He said that Mordovia was the only republic in Russia to elect a representative from the democratic camp, Vassily Guslyannikov, to the post of president. In the other republics the posts of president were occupied by representatives of the opposition camp, he said.

Lysenko expressed serious concern about the fact that "lawlessness caused by confrontation and disrespect for the law by both branches of federal authorities was moving downwards, threatening to trigger off a process of total legal nihilism."

In Lysenko's opinion, the beginning of this process had already been laid. The legislative authority which alleged that it had worked in strict accordance with the Constitution and the law was changing it monthly in a way which suited it best. All this cast doubts on the legitimacy of the Russian congress of people's deputies and the Mordovian parliament.

Now that the Constitutional Court has been entangled in political confrontation, President Yeltsin remains the only guarantor of the inviolability of executive power in the periphery. This explains why he sent his appeal to the Mordovian parliament.

Shakhray To Meet Mordovian Leaders

LD0704202393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Russia's Deputy Premier Sergey Shakhray flew to Saransk, capital of Mordovia, today. According to ITAR-TASS, during this trip there will be a meeting between Sergey Shakhray and the Mordovian leadership on matters concerning perfection of the mechanism for implementing the federal treaty.

Attempt Called 'Communist Revanche'

OW0704180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Mordovian presidential apparatus evaluated the local parliament's decision to abolish the presidency in the republic as an attempted "communist revanche," said Mordovian presidential advisor Boris Savelyev in an interview with Interfax on Wednesday [7 April]. The decision, which has caused vast social repercussions, was passed by a parliamentary majority last Saturday [3 April] before the parliament announced a recess until April 7.

According to Savelyev, upon request of the Mordovian president, in recent days a group of legal experts from Moscow, headed by Anatoliy Slivoy, the deputy director of the state legal department under the Russian president, visited Saransk. Savelyev said the group recognized the deputies' decision as unconstitutional.

Mordovian President Appeals to Court

LD0704191893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1811 GMT 7 apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The post of the president was eliminated by the parliament of Mordovia (a republic within Russia) on Wednesday [7 April].

Russian television "Vesti" programme reported tonight, that Mordovian President Vasily Guslyannikov decided to appeal against the decision to Russia's Constitutional Court.

Shakhray Denounces Presidency Abolishment

LD0704225993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The deputies of the Mordovian parliament have succeeded in doing what the Russian deputies failed to achieve at their last congress. Since they could not remove republic President Vasiliy Guslyannikov from power by legal means, they simply abolished the institution of presidency today and made corresponding amendments to the Constitution. In accordance with the deputies' decision, the president and vice president of Mordovia have been paid a three- month allowance.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, who immediately went in Saransk, told journalists today that neither the president nor the government of the Russian Federation were going to sit idle with a situation in Mordovia taking this turn. Shakhray believes that the republican parliament has seriously violated the Russian

Constitution, and the Constitutional Court is already considering this matter on a preliminary basis.

As for Guslyannikov, the deposed president of the republic, he has voiced an opinion that there is an obvious connection between the line taken by Mordovian Supreme Soviet Chairman Biryukov and that of Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov.

The INTERFAX agency has learned from well-informed and trustworthy sources that Russian President Yeltsin is expected to sign a decree tomorrow in connection with the events in Mordovia. Apparently, the document will include an order to suspend the decision of the republic's parliament until the end of the investigation into its conformity with the Constitution.

President Guslyannikov Interviewed

MK0704130293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Mordovia President Vasiliy Guslyannikov by Radik Batyrshin followed by Batyrshin commentary; place and date not given: "Attempts To Remove President Are Being Made Not Only in Moscow, but Also in Saransk. Only the Leader's Unquestionable Authority Can Guarantee Social Calm in Post-Soviet States"]

[Text] On 3 April a session of the Mordovia Supreme Soviet passed a decision to drop from the republic's Constitution an article on the institution of the presidency. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA asked Mordovian President Vasiliy Guslyannikov for comment.

[Batyrshin] Do you see an analogy with the events at the Ninth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies?

[Guslyannikov] This is not an analogy but an accurate copy—except that a Mordovia Supreme Soviet session has no power to impeach by a two-thirds vote. Under the republic's Constitution, this decision is made by the Constitutional Court by a two-thirds majority vote, which is then submitted to the electors for approval. Mordovian deputies are trying to blame me for the economic situation that has taken shape in the republic. It came to the point where, on the session's opening day, people were ordered to leave work and gather in front of the Supreme Soviet building; they were told that Guslyannikov was guilty of raising energy tariffs—make it hot for him.

[Batyrshin] You are president but there is no presidency as an institution.

[Guslyannikov] The institution has not been abolished because it was simply a soft rating vote [myagkoye reytingovoye golosovaniye] on the question: "Who is in favor of abolishing the presidency and Chapter 12 of the Constitution of Mordovia?" Although three votes were polled in excess of a two-thirds majority, that was not a law or a decree, so it has no legal effect.

[Batyrshin] What is the reason for the standoff between you and the Supreme Soviet?

[Guslyannikov] When I was still a deputy of the republic's parliament, I was a member of the Democratic Russia faction. We constituted a mere 15 percent of the overall number of deputies, while the other comrades had been elected for the most part in uncontested elections by agreement with the CPSU obkom. Fifteen months ago during the presidential elections I polled more votes than Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Biryukov. From that moment on, my confrontation began both with the leadership of the Mordovian parliament and with the same majority of deputies. Incidentally, many of them have resumed their CPSU membership.

[Batyrshin] What proportion of the deputies supports you?

[Guslyannikov] One in 10.

[Batyrshin] How does the session's decision correlate with the legislation?

[Guslyannikov] According to the conclusion of jurists at the Mordovian University's State and Law Department, experts at the Russian Federation Justice Ministry, and the Russian president's State Legal Administration, this constitutes a breach of the principle of the separation of powers and Article 133 of the Russian Federation Constitution which says that the republic's president is the head of the executive branch and that he forms it. The main thing, however, is that the mechanism of impeaching the president itself was violated. If the Mordovian president has breached the law, this, I repeat, is for the Constitutional Court and the republic's people to decide. The Supreme Soviet deputies are trying to do this on their own. As for abolishing the post of president, a law must be adopted on introducing appropriate changes into the Constitution. Under the law, the president is to sign it. If I do not sign the law, it will be sent back for reworking. Yet the incentive for the deputies is substantial—I am not only president but also head of the republic's government. This means that with my departure a large number of portfolios would be available.

[Batyrshin] Mordovia's Constitutional Court has not as yet been elected....

[Guslyannikov] Back in January I appealed to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court. Valeriy Zorkin's position, however, is not clear to me—a preliminary conclusion has long been ready, and it takes only the chairman's decision to approve it. My appeal was prompted by the republican Supreme Soviet's December decision to introduce changes into Mordovia's Constitution; I did not sign it, since they had broken the principle of the division of powers. I do not know why Valeriy Zorkin is marking time. Maybe this is being done at the request of Ruslan Khasbulatov, with whom Mordovian Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Biryukov is very friendly.

[Batyrshin] What are you going to do?

[Guslyannikov] At the moment I am holding consultations with specialists from the Russian president's apparatus, who have extensive experience of working in such situations. After that I will begin to act.

[Batyrshin] How?

[Guslyannikov] A week ago I appealed to the people of Mordovia and then to the deputies, but the Supreme Soviet went too far. The deputies have a considerable edge over me in their experience of political intrigues, but I will not be sitting around idly. I will take an active part in the referendum.

[Batyrshin] Against this backdrop tensions are rising between the two Mordovian peoples—the Ezrya and the Moksha....

[Guslyannikov] This struggle is now gathering momentum, and I am not getting involved in it. This is not a struggle between peoples, however, but between the Ezryan and Mokshan nomenklatura clans.

[Batyrshin] Is a compromise possible?

[Guslyannikov] I proposed that all contradictions be frozen until the next elections. I am ready to hold simultaneous early elections. If I lose in this case, I can be sure that all the deputies will also face rotation. I think that our rightful cause will triumph in the end. [Guslyannikov ends]

Commentary

The events in Mordovia accurately, to the point of absurdity, repeat the events in the Moscow corridors of power. Methods of struggle—impeachment or abolition of an article in the Constitution, a referendum or an appeal to the people—are only nuances. Yet this is happening not only in Russia. Armenia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine too cannot boast accord between presidential and parliamentary structures. And in those republics that are lacking the joy of having a "popularly elected" president, the role of fighter against parliament is being successfully played by a premier.

The easiest explanation of this confrontation is the struggle of progressive reformist presidents with conservative nomenklatura deputies, a clash between the power of the Soviets and the nascent democracy. This explanation, however, is as facile as it is superficial. All presidents to some extent or another are seeking to establish personal rule, promising their voters stability and prosperity. Yet it is precisely those parts of the post-Soviet space where the power of a leader's personal authority was established without head-on collisions between the president and parliament, that are the stable ones.

These leaders are usually called former party apparatchiks and their regimes authoritarian, but this is not quite correct. Islam Karimov in Uzbekistan, Saparmurad Niyazov in Turkmenistan, Mirtaza Rakhimov in Bashkortostan, Mintimer Shaymiyev in Tatarstan, Mikhail Nikolayev in Sakha (Yakutia), and Viktor Stepanov in Karelia relate differently to the old-type nomenklatura and have fairly dissimilar systems of administration. Yet each of these republics has steady social stability precisely owing to the personal authority of their leader. This is why there are virtually no permanent duels between the president and the deputy corps against the backdrop of economic disintegration, as is the case in other regions.

This, of course, does not mean that dictatorship is necessary and even useful on the territory of the former USSR. Yet it is the "regime of personal authority" that appears to be one of the most effective methods of state administration in this historical period. The only problem is the personality of a leader capable, under democratic conditions, of running the country in this way. Be that as it may, this problem will remain acute in Russia and in other republics, regardless of referendums or early elections. Therefore duels between presidents and the deputies are bound to continue.

Today the Mordovian Supreme Soviet session will resume its work. Observers believe that the deputies will transform their political decision on abolishing the presidency into an amendment to the republic's Constitution.

Yeltsin Decrees President To Remain

OW0804112693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday [8 April] signed a decree declaring illegal the decision of the parliament of Mordovia, one of the Russian Federation's republics, to abolish the presidency in that republic. The decree ordered its president, Vasiliy Guslyannikov, and government to remain in office while the Russian Constitutional Court decided whether or not the decision was line with the Constitution.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, who had arrived in the Mordovian capital Saransk yesterday informed the Mordovian parliament about Yeltsin's decree on Thursday and appealed to it to suspend its decision pending the ruling of the Constitutional Court. He also proposed that Mordovia's population be questioned about its confidence in the republic's president and parliament at the April 25 referendum.

Prior to Shakhray's speech in Mordovia's legislature some deputies demanded that Guslyannikov leave the presidential seat in the parliamentary presidium since, in their opinion, he no longer had the right occupy this.

Nikolay Biruykov, chairman of the Mordovian parliament, said the latter had been receiving telegrams expressing support for its decision. He said the situation was quiet and no protest rallies or demonstrations were being held.

A Russian Supreme Soviet official, Boris Isayev, who was present at the session, also described the situation as "quiet and normal." In his opinion, "the situation is developing in keeping with the constitutions of the Russian Federation and Mordovia." Calling the reaction of the Russian executive branch to the Mordovian events "very unhealthy," Isayev said Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov regarded these as normal.

Following Shakhray's speech, the Mordovian parliament went over to electing a constitutional court for the republic in order to entrust it with passing a definitive ruling on the presidency in the republic rather than asking the Russian Constitutional Court to do so.

The Mordovian Constitution provides for the existence of a constitutional court, but the latter has not yet been elected.

Guslyannikov Concerned About Communism

OW0804114293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of Mordovia Vasiliy Guslyannikov has described the situation in his republic as very acute. He said that the leadership of the Russian parliament was involved in the latest developments. He told Interfax that there was a clear link between the position of the chairman of the Mordovan parliament Nikolay Biryukov and head of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Guslyannikov considered that the great number of former Communist officials in the local parliament had considerably influenced developments. He spoke of "Moscow's handwriting" in the script of developments in Mordovia and hoped that the Constitutional Court would intervene and pass its verdict. He said he had sent a special message to that end to the chairman of the court Valeriy Zorkin on Wednesday [7 April].

The president said that if during the months ahead executive power still failed to turn the course of developments to its own favor Communists will regain power in all the republics and regions of the federation as well as in Moscow within a year.

Pacific Fleet's Vice Admiral Gurinov on Future Tasks

OW0704154493 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 7 Apr 93

[New conference by Vice Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, Pacific Fleet commander, with unidentified reporters in Vladivostok on 7 April; from the "Pacific Ocean" program—recorded]

[Text] [Gurinov] This is a first briefing rather than a news conference.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct] You have already visited Russkiy Island. What measures are planned to prevent a similar tragedy in the future?

[Gurinov] Answering your second question: I have not visited Russkiy Island yet. My trip there with a group of officers, to see it all for myself, is scheduled for 10 April.

A lot has been done in this short period. You know that by the orders of both the defense minister and the commander in chief, more that 50 authorities have been punished and more than 20 people have been removed from their posts. Many of them have already been replaced, and we hope that their replacements will vigorously carry out their responsibilities. There are difficulties in supplying water and other necessities to these ancient military towns. This demands a certain capital investment. This work has also been planned and is being carried out, although its pace is unsatisfactory. But this work will be carried out. As you know, the Communications School will cease operations for a certain period, and we will not send people from the spring draft—meaning those that are about to be drafted. Measures are being worked out, and we are looking for a place to relocate this academy. The rest will be provided for in terms of medical, provisions, and clothing services. All necessary measures have been taken and are under strict daily scrutiny.

As to your request to tell briefly about myself—we will distribute a biography later. I was born to a family of a serviceman on 27 August 1939—I can see my mother laughing—while on a flight stopover in the city of Minsk. After I was born, we flew on to the new service post. My father served on torpedo boats, all the way up from a mechanic to an air squadron engineer, and he concluded his service here at Ugolnaya airport, where our naval air wing used to be deployed. Unfortunately, I buried my father in 1988. My mother is a dentist, and she also has worked all the time. She worked for three years at frontline hospitals and took me with her everywhere. Today, she lives in the city of Petrokrepost in Kaliningrad Oblast. She is a pensioner, and about to be 74.

I entered the Caspian High Naval Academy in Baku in 1956, graduated in 1960, and, as fate would have it, all the graduates were sent to the Strategic Rocket Troops—you probably know about this period. I served there for four years at different posts while requesting a transfer. Having finally gotten approval in August, I was transferred to the Baltic Fleet, to the post of commander of a destroyer antiaircraft battery, followed by almost 20 years of service in the Baltic at various posts: a commander of a combat unit [boyevaya chast], executive officer, and commander of a destroyer. Then I entered the Naval Academy, graduated in 1975, and was appointed chief of staff of a rocket ship brigade in the Baltic, commanded a brigade of destroyers, then became chief of staff of a rocket ship division, and entered the

General Staff Academy in 1982. After graduating in 1984, I was appointed chief of staff of the first deputy of the Kamchatka Fleet and commanded the fleet since 1986, and [words indistinct] since 3 January 1990. Then I left for a new service post—chief of staff of the Black Sea Fleet, where I served until September 1992. I was appointed deputy commander in chief of the Navy, and dealt with issues concerning the utilization and restoration of the Navy. Then the president's edict signed [words indistinct]. I have been married since 1964, and have a son born in 1963, who is a senior lieutenant and a commander of a combat unit of a surface ship in Kamchatka.

[Reporter] What do you plan to begin with?

[Gurinov] I am studying the situation, will analyze it, make conclusions, and only then make decisions. This is how we solve problems.

First and foremost, I will of course study the situation in more detail; of course, the most important thing is to study combat documents and reconstruct them from my memory. This is the first task. Next comes the task of studying the situation in the central organs of command—what they do nowadays, what they and the chiefs of departments work on, and so on. Then comes work in the regions, in the field. It demands a detailed study of the situation in very region. Naturally, the issues of combat readiness and preparedness will be dealt with simultaneously—all of this will only grow from day to day.

The questions of personnel, which have been mentioned in one of the newspapers—I think it was KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that printed the headline: The New Admiral Rows in New Way. The expression is somewhat misplaced. I have no intention of making any sharp shifts among the Pacific Fleet personnel. As you know, the replacements are partially connected to the latest events, which is a natural action. Some of the shifts will be planned and regular, becaus even according to the new law, all of this is becoming more complicated. A person cannot occupy the same post for more that five years and cannot be transferred to a new place before serving at least two years at his post. So we have these issues to work on and carry out today.

Of course, it will be my right and the right of the military council to select and analyze, so we have strong leadership personnel who would be able to solve tasks put before them and not tolerate such terrible incidents as the one that took place at Russkiy Island.

Further on Gurinov News Conference

LD0704194993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1803 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Timofey Orekhov]

[Text] Vladivostok April 7 TASS—"Fleet combat readiness is determined in the long run by the level of social well-being of personnel, and therefore this direction will be one of my primary concerns at my new post," Vice-Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, new commander-in-chief of the Pacific Navy, former deputy commander-in-chief of the naval formations of Russia, told a news conference in Vladivostok today. The vice-admiral stressed that the Pacific Fleet is the largest among other Russian naval formations. The new commander-in-chief regards his appointment to the Far East as high honour and trust.

Vice-Admiral Georgiy Gurinov replaced Admiral Gennadiy Khvatov who was removed from his post and discharged from military service as a result of tragic events on Russkiy Island connected with mass diseases and deaths of sailors. The new commander-in-chief believes that the prerequisites for such occurrences have been accumulating for decades. The Pacific Fleet, as well as the whole Russian Far East, has always had great difficulties in providing good social conditions of daily life.

"The Pacific Fleet has many complex problems connected with the general political and economic situation in Russia but they are certainly surmountable, first of all because the overwhelming majority of servicemen maintain a feeling of high patriotism and responsibility despite serious difficulties," the commander-in-chief stressed.

Transbaykal Referendum Results 'Difficult To Predict'

LD0704130193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] It is clear that under the conditions of the game that were put down by the congress the president will probably manage to get the majority of votes of the people that come to the referendum, but it is unlikely that the number of votes will be greater than half of the electoral role of the Russian voters. This is substantiated to some extent by the results of sociological polls. Our Chita correspondent Vyacheslav Shirokiy will inform you of the results of one of them that was conducted in the Transbaykal Region.

[Shirokiy] The president's policy is supported by 38 percent of the respondents, 14 percent of the northeners are against it, and 45 percent could give no answer at all. An analysis of the figures presented by the journalists involuntarily confirms the conclusion reached by the Chita sociologists that the majority of the population of the Transbaykal Region try to stay away from the intricacies of high politics, devoting themselves more to the economy. The northeners note, meanwhile, that in the constitutional crisis that has developed Boris Yeltsin has undermined his authority by inconsistent actions. That is why those 45 percent of respondents have so far been unable to reach a firm decision as to whose side they will take when they fill in the ballot papers on 25 April. Because of this experts think that it will be difficult to predict the results of the impending political action, at least in the northen part of the Baykal Region.

Tatarstan Must Not Participate in Referendum

OW0704144993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The coordinating committee of public organizations and democratic movements of Tatarstan standing for the republic's complete independence has issued an appeal to the population of Tatarstan urging it not to take part in the April 25 Russian referendum, a referendum of a "foreign state."

The document, signed by the leaders of the All-Tatar Public Center, the Sovereignty Movement, and other radical organizations, said the referendum had been planned by the leadership of a "disintegrating imperial Russian Federation to please Russia's imperialist chauvinist forces."

The appeal went on to say that under Tatarstan's constitution the people of the republic, irregardless of their nationality, were not Russian citizens. They could only participate in the referendum on Russian territory proper, ie outside Tatarstan.

Exercises End in North Caucasian Interior District

LD0704141193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1256 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Rostov-on-Don April 7 TASS—Command post exercises have been completed on Wednesday [7 April] in the Russian Interior Ministry's North Caucasian district. For two days, a group of Moscow officers and generals headed by Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of the Russian Interior Troops, checked the capacity of the district's control agencies, formations and units to analyze the current situation in the region and to make decisions on putting the troops in action. Summing up the reults of the exercises, General Kulikov pointed out that they had achieved the planned targets.

The final meeting was addressed by Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin who reported the disturbing figures of the present crime rate both in the region and across the country and pointed out that "the measures taken by law-enforcement bodies should be adequate to the growing aggressiveness of the underground world". Appealling to the interior district command and the interior department heads, the minister stressed that results of their work would depend to a considerable extent on the efficiency of coordination between local law-enforcement bodies and Interior Troops units.

The command post exercises in the North Caucasian interior district are the first of the kind in Russia's Interior Troops. While other districts envisaged by the law on Interior Troops are formed, similar exercises will be held in them as well.

Strong Backing for Yeltsin Reported in Birobidzhan

LD0704154993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The abundance of political news the week which follows the congress is no surprise. The inhabitants of the Far East are discussing—and very often condemning—the results of the Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies. Public committees to support the president are being formed. Preparations have begun for the referendum. Democratic movements have issued statements denouncing Bolshevik attempts to seize television and radio. The reaction to the congress is a logical consequence of what happened there.

Although many voters never worked out exactly what the congress wanted, it was a truly historic event. The Ninth Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies has unquestionably broken the record for violations of the Constitution and gone down in history for the way in which it exposed the intellectual limitations of the deputies. Some of the things which happened there were a joke and one might feel like laughing if the country did not have to pay such a high price for those performances at the microphone.

Judging by straw polls carried out by sociologists, the congress was also a landmark for the way in which it widened the gulf between electors and elected and led to a catastrophic fall in the popularity of this organ of collective irresponsibility. [passage omitted]

In Birobidzhan a survey carried out by the analysis center of the city administration shows that 49 percent of respondents support Boris Yeltsin. Only 14 percent back the Supreme Soviet. Support for the president reaches 80 percent among industrial workers.

Abdulatipov Protests Yeltsin Decree on Cossacks

MK0704135493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 15, 11 Apr 93 (signed to press 6 Apr) p A2

["Opinion" article by Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities: "Edict Offends Everyone"]

[Text] The president's edict "On Reforming the Military Structures and Border and Internal Troops on the Territory of the Russian Federation's North Caucasus Region and on State Support for the Cossacks" brings literally to naught all my and Sergey Shakhray's efforts to normalize the situation and returns us to the era of the Shamilevskiy wars [reference unknown].

All the factors needed to start a civil war have accumulated in the Caucasus. According to many indicators the Caucasian republics—Dagestan, Chechnya, and Ingushetia—are in 60-65th place in terms of Russian Federation standards of living. Oil has also been poured on troubled waters by the campaign at the Center regarding so-called "persons of Caucasian nationality," a campaign that was wrought out of the events in Chechnya and the Transcaucasus. The strengthening of anti-Caucasian sentiments and the corresponding comments by influential people have caused confrontation in the Caucasus: Everything was ready to explode. A number of measures taken by the Soviet of Nationalities, especially with Sergey Shakhray's return to active political activity, have taken the heat out of the situation. And maybe also averted a great Caucasus war.

The president's edict declares this group a police force in an offensive form, above all to the Cossacks themselves. The fragile peace established between the Cossacks and mountain people could be destroyed by this one-sided decree. The Cossacks have zealously rushed to carry out the president's edict. The events in Rostov are well known. The Russian Federation's national-state and territorial structure must now be substantially changed. In essence, not in form.

Sakhalin Governor Resigns, Endorses Yeltsin's Nominee

OW0804085093 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 7 Apr 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Valentin Fedorov has resigned from the post of governor of Sakhalin. On 2 April, at the session of the Oblast Soviet of Peoples Deputies, Fedorov supported Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov as a candidate for the gubernatorial post, as proposed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Krasnyarov, 53, is a former captain of a fishing vessel and currently heads a joint Russo-Japanese enterprise.

North Ossetians Protest Treatment by Russian Troops

OW0804015593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Several thousand people in the village of Tarskoye of North Ossetia's Prigorodny Region held a rally accusing Russian troops stationed locally of perpetrating outrages such as oppression and extortion against the local population.

At another rally in the North Ossetian capital, Vladikavkaz, people who had been provided with new flats were complaining that they were unable to move in because refugees from Prigorodny Region were living there.

The Mayor of Vladikavkaz, Mikhail Shatalov, said that, by decision of the presidium of the republic's government, practically all the flats would be returned to their legitimate tenants, the exceptions being 27 flats held by families which, as had been proved, had no other accommodation and had lost their breadwinners in last November's conflict.

Altogether 150 flats in three new blocks in Vladikavkaz have been occupied by refugees from Prigorodny Region.

Military Actions in Ingushetia To Be Agreed With President

LD0704192593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1414 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Ruslan Aushev, president of the Republic of Ingushetia, has made an official statement to the head of the interim administration on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Colonel General Yuriy Shatalin, in connection with this morning's military operation to search for weapons in Dalakovo village in the Republic of Ingushetia. The press secretary of the Ingush president, Magomed Archakov, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that Ruslan Aushev insists that "such operations be carried out only with the agreement of the leadership of the Republic of Ingushetia and with the participation of the public prosecutor's office and the republic's security and internal affairs ministries".

The demand "is motivated by an endeavor to provide for the maximum efficiency of such operations and to stabilize the situation in general."

Ossetia-Ingushetia State of Emergency Zone Quiet

LD0704164893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1504 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 7 TASS—No skirmishes and armed clashed on ethnic grounds were reported in the limited zone in North Ossetia and Ingushetia where a state of emergency had been imposed. Russian peacekeeping forces are keeping the situation in the area under control.

According to reports by the temporary administration, the criminal situation in the region remains tense. Over the past twenty four hours 12 firearms, grenades, explosives and around 1,000 cartridges were confiscated from local residents.

According to reports from Nazrani, Russian troops, which were stationed in Nazrani on a peace-keeping mission, are being withdrawn. Troops of the Russian Interior Ministry remain for the time being in several districts of the Nazran region to maintain a state of emergency.

Chechen Justices Comment on Meeting With Zorkin

PM0704113793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Yelena Musatova report: "The Cult of the Law, Not Personality Cult"]

[Text] A press conference devoted to the meeting of representatives of the Russian Constitutional Court took place in the Chechen mission in Moscow on 3 April.

The participants discussed the problem of regulating mutual relations between the executive and legislative branches of power which is currently dividing both courts. The supreme judicial organs have the same task—to preserve the constitutional system.

The talks which took place were also of great significance in the light of the establishment of good-neighborly relations between Russia and Chechnya. The idea that they are in a unified legal field was voiced.

In his speech Chechen Constitutional Court Chairman Ikhvan Gerikhanov said: "We want to stress in particular that we met with mutual understanding and support in Moscow. Given an amicable attitude, it is possible to resolve all the questions which arise through legal methods. The most important thing for us all is to respect the law."

At the end of the meeting the Chechen side handed Russian Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin a draft agreement incorporating a program for cooperation between the top judicial organs. Once amendments and additions have been made, the draft will be returned to the Chechen Constitutional Court for final ratification.

The chairman and members of the Chechen Constitutional Court expressed their opinion on the position of the Russian Constitutional Court and its chairman during recent events.

"As lawyers we believe that the Russian Constitutional Court has not deviated one iota from the basic law," I. Gerikhanov stated. "Valeriy Zorkin is a thoroughly irreproachable individual. He did not deserve the attacks from the press and television. For us he is an example of how the constitution should be defended."

Yakutia President Mikhail Nikolayev Interviewed

MK0704104693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 93 p 1

[Interview with Mikhail Nikolayev, president of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) by Radik Batyrshin; place and date not given: "Congress Has Exhausted Its Potentials. Republic's President Mikhail Nikolayev Hopes That People of Russia Will Give Yeltsin Vote of Confidence"]

[Text] [Batyrshin] How do you assess the results of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation?

[Nikolayev] The Congress failed to justify the hopes of the people of Russia because no agreement was achieved between the legislative and executive branches. Hence the conclusion that the Congress has exhausted its ability to manage the country. Clearly, the Congress has fulfilled it historical role and it is necessary to elect a two-chamber parliament working on a permanent basis.

[Batyrshin] Will there be some additional questions to be put to the 25 April referendum in the Republic of Sakha?

[Nikolayev] The Congress decided that no additional questions by the components of the Federation are to be permitted.

[Batyrshin] But if such a decision has been taken by a republic's Supreme Soviet, it cannot very well be revoked by the Congress....

[Nikolayev] Yes, but nevertheless we will not include our own questions.

[Batyrshin] What will be your actions after the referendum results are in?

[Nikolayev] I think that the people of Russia will nevertheless show trust in their popularly elected president, and declare for early elections of people's deputies.

[Batyrshin] You have added your signature to the draft plan for a Federation Council....

[Nikolayev] The idea is not new. But there is such a necessity for it, so I favor reestablishing the Federation Council. Later this body should be transformed into one of the chambers of a new parliament.

[Batyrshin] But do not you think there may be rivalry between the Federation Council and the Council of Heads of Republics?

[Nikolayev] The Council of Heads of Republics and the Council of Governors exist under the Russian Federation president as consultative bodies. But preparations should be made to create a chamber of the components of the Federation, for which purpose suitable mechanisms of interaction should be worked out. It is important, however, that there should be parity between republics and other territories. In fact republics comprise a minority among the Federation's components.

[Batyrshin] The draft plan for a Federation Council provides for decisions to be made by two-thirds of the votes....

[Nikolayev] The draft of course needs revision.

Three Register for Kalmykia Presidential Elections

OW0704120693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Presidential elections should be held on April 11 in Kalmykia (a republic within the Russian Federation). This decision was confirmed by a session of parliament in Elista on Tuesday [6 April].

To date three candidates have been officially registered: president of the farmers association Vladimir Bambayev, president of the Russian chamber of businessmen, millionaire Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and the first deputy commander of the RF [Russian Federation] land units' air force, Vladimir Ochirov.

Local observers and polls are leaning in the direction of either Ochirov or Ilyumzhinov.

The Kalmykia session of parliament rejected a proposal on postponing presidential elections from April 11 to the 25, the date scheduled for the all-Russian referendum.

International Affairs

Russia To Lack Jurisdiction Over Strategic Armaments

LD0704112893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Ukraine hails Russia's intention to compensate it for nuclear components of strategic missiles and hopes that space rockets withdrawn earlier from its territory will also be part of this intention. This was pointed out in a statement of the Ukrainian cabinet. The Ukrainian leadership, however, the document goes on to say, is not going to allow Russia's jurisdiction over strategic armaments stationed on Ukrainian territory. Operationally, they come under the control of the CIS Allied Command; administratively—of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Government is against this extremely serious problem becoming an object of political games. There is no one single document or statement where the Ukrainian side would cast a doubt over its wish to become a non-nuclear state in the future. The speed of this process, however, is geared to only one thing: the volume of Ukraine's security guarantees and negotiations with Russia, says the statement of the Ukrainian cabinet press service.

Zlenko, Disarmament Aide Rebut Russian Statement

PM0804104593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 93 p 2

[Ilya Tikhomirov report: "'Firefight' of Statements"]

[Text] Kiev—Commenting on the Russian Federation Government statement on the nuclear weapons located on Ukrainian territory, Ukrainian Foreign Minister A. Zlenko said:

"A statement is not the way to solve such a complex problem. Moreover, it is not clear why we should hand over control of these weapons to Russia when they are under the operational control of the CIS Strategic Forces Joint Command. Finally, it is not clear what grounds there are for the accusation that Ukrainian structures to control nuclear weapons are being set up."

At a briefing at the Foreign Ministry Press Center, B. Tarasyuk, chairman of the National Disarmament Committee, stated that the Russian Government chose the timing of the statement with a direct eye to U.S. support. But, he said, U.S. and Russian views on Ukrainian nuclear weapons do not coincide in many areas. Russia, accusing Ukraine of violating treaties that have not come into force yet, was the first to disregard the Minsk and Alma-Ata CIS agreements and switch its strategic forces to its own jurisdiction, has pressured Belarus, taking its nuclear arsenal, and is now trying to do the same thing to Ukraine....

NATO Delegation Discusses Nuclear Issue

LD0704195293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The official visit to Kiev by Lieutenant-General Henning von Ondarza, commander in chief of NATO Allied Forces in Central Europe, is continuing. Today he met with Kostyantyn Morozov, Ukrainian minister of defense, and Anatoliy Lopata, the latter's deputy. Roundtable talks were held with the participation of members of the NATO delegation and chiefs of directorate of the military department and the Main Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

In particular, the issue of the future of the nuclear weapons deployed on Ukrainian territory, was discussed.

Russia, Ukraine Establish Joint Fuel, Energy Company

OW0804115193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and Ukraine have set up a joint fuel and energy company. This is intended to maintain existing oil fields and develop new deposits in Khanty-Mansi autonomous region. The company will provide Ukraine with oil in addition to the official quota agreed by the two countries.

Vice-Premier Yuliy Ioffe said that the creation of the company was made possible after Kiev signed an agreement on oil extraction with the leadership of Khanty-Mansi region. The Surgut agreement of CIS primeministers was also instrumental in forming the company.

The first oil from bore holes repaired with the help of the Ukrainian side is expected to be shipped from Western Siberia this year.

Kiev Plans To Open Embassy in Cairo

OW0704191593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1521 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, D. Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the near future Ukraine will open its embassy in Egypt - its first diplomatic mission of this level in Africa and in the Arab world, said Ukraine's Charge d'Affaires in Egypt, Viktor Nagaychuk, at a briefing in Kiev. The Kiev-Cairo airline will also be opened in a few days' time, he added. A group of Ukrainian diplomats will go to the Egyptian capital on the first flight.

According to the diplomat, the embassy in Cairo will serve as "the advance post of Ukraine's policy in the Middle East". Kiev has already opened its embassy in Israel and, "considering the complexity of Arab-Israeli relations, the opening of Ukraine's diplomatic mission in Egypt is a logical step," said Nagaychuk. His main task, he said, is to follow a well-considered policy in Ukraine's relations with both the Arab countries and Israel.

Romanian Parliamentary Delegation Begins Visit in Kiev

AU0604114793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0921 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Kiev ROMPRES, 6/4/1993—A delegation of the Romanian Parliament, headed by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Adrian Nastase, starts a visit in Ukraine today, April 6. The Romanian parliamentarians will be received by President Leonid Kravchuk and will have talks with Parliament President Ivan Plyushch, Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, and with representatives of political parties.

The Romanian delegation will be in Cernauti on Thursday and Friday [8 and 9 April] as the schedule of the visit includes meetings with local officials, calls at cultural, economic, and social units in Cernauti and other localities in the region.

Belarus

Opposition Against Signing Collective Security Treaty

LD0704172593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1529 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk April 7 TASS—"We come out for equal mutually advantageous relations with free Russia. Military matters should be resolved by republics independently," said representatives of the opposition of the Belarusian Parliament at a news conference on Wednesday [7 April].

They expressed their concern about the readiness of the majority of the Belarusian Parliament to adopt a "risky decision" and sign a treaty on collective security.

Participants in the news conference have announced their readiness to begin another campaign for holding a nationwide referendum to vote on the question whether Belarus should be a neutral state not joining military blocs.

"An initiative of creating an imaginary economic union with Russia is nothing but the government's acknowledgement of the defeat of the economic policy it is pursuing," Zenon Poznyak, chairman of the Belarusian People's Front, told journalists.

"Earlier, this policy was based on principles of state subsidies and hopes for supplies of Russian oil and raw materials at low prices. Now, this is in the past. Nobody intends to do anything free of charge. Sooner or later, in bilateral economic relations the republics will necessarily introduce world prices," Poznyak said.

Foreign Ministry Backs Treaty With Conditions

OW0704191093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1521 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, D. Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Belarusian Foreign Ministry supports on the whole the call for joining the Treaty on Collective Security concluded in the framework of the CIS in Tashkent on May 15, 1992, but recommends that it should be signed with a number of reservations, taking into account Belarus's neutrality. According to the information available to Interfax, Belarus's Foreign Ministry said so in its inference prepared for an emergency session of the parliament. On Thursday [8 April] the legislature will discuss its attitude to the treaty.

According to Belarusian diplomats, the building of a system of collective security in the framework of the CIS should be viewed as a step on the road toward strengthening the regional and global system of international peace and security. At the same time the document points out that, if Belarus joins the treaty, some of its provisions will clash with several norms of Belarus's legislation, particularly with the bills on defence and on the armed forces, and with some other legislative acts.

Commission 'Positively' Solves Collective Security Issue

OW0804011093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vyacheslav Grib, chairman of parliamentary commission on national security, defense, and combat with crime, announced at a press conference in Minsk that on Wednesday [7 April] the Belarusian Security Council "positively" solved the issue concerning the country's joining CIS Treaty on collective security.

At the same time Grib noted that Stanislav Shushkevich, head of Security Council and chairman of Supreme Soviet, "believes that Belarus does not need to join this treaty."

Meanwhile, parliamentary sources told Interfax that the national security commission put forward a proposal to adopt a decision on Belarus' joining the Treaty on collective security and to discuss it at tomorrow's session of the Belarusian parliament (scheduled for April 8). The draft resolution sets Shushkevich, head of parliament, "to address heads of the Treaty on collective security's member-counties with a statement to join this treaty for a transition period under provisions stipulating that the Belarusian armed forces will not be deployed on the territories of other states and will not participate in hostilities outside the republic's borders."

Defense Minister Urges Collective Security Pact With Russia

LD0804081693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The defense minister of Belarus, (?Lieutenant General) Pavel Kozlovskiy, has called for concluding a pact of collective security with Russia. He said that the collapse of the USSR demoralized the armed forces of its former members and reduced their combat readiness.

Pavel Kozlovskiy made the statement on the eve of the voting in parliament later this week on the renunciation of neutrality proclaimed a year ago. Mr. Kozlovskiy believes that the policy of neutrality not recognized by anybody and conducted at a time of an economic crisis, is doomed to fail. The Belarusian defense minister believes that without cooperation with Russia in arms production and the training of officers the Belarussian Army would completely lose its combat potential.

Moldova

Delegation Continues Talks With Russia on 14th Army

OW0804012593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of experts from the Russian Defense Ministry arrived in Chisinau Moldova, on Wednesday [7 April] to take part in the new round of Moldovan-Russian talks on the status of, and the withdrawal schedule for, the Russian 14th Army. The delegations will be headed by Vladimir Plechko, the Russian Ambassador to Moldova, and Anatol Taranu, the new Moldovan Ambassador to Russia.

One of the members of the Russian delegation told Interfax that "practically all points have been clarified except for one, the deadline for the withdrawal of the (14th) army." He said Moldova insisted that the army be pulled out by the end of next year, whereas Russia considered this to be unrealistic.

Ion Borsevici Appointed Ambassador to Ukraine

AU0704161093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 6/4/1993—By a decree of President Mircea Snegur, Ion Borsevici has been appointed for the post of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Ukraine, the Press Service of the President informs.

Until now, Ion Borsevici had been working as adviser to President Snegur.

Republic Introduces Interim Currency

LD0604140393

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1100 GMT on 6 April carries a 2-minute video report by correspondent Mikhail Sokirke from the "Novosti" newscast. Announcer Irina Mishina says that as from today there is one less country in the ruble zone, as Moldova is introducing a provisional monetary unit. She adds that there are now seven republics left in the rouble zone.

Correspondent Sokirke reports from Moldova that although Moldova has signed the intergovernmental agreement on forming part of the ruble zone, these new Russian denomenations are not valid. He says that the relevant resolution says they are not valid until further instructions. Sokirke continues by saying that there is no machinery, however, to execute this decision. The chairman of the Dubossary gorsovet says the working people of the town have not been receiving wages since the end of last year. He says there is a deficit of 3 billion rubles and one-third of this is for paying pensions.

Government Adopts Romanian as Sole Official Language

AU0704090093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Apr 93 p 10

[Svitlana Chala commentary from Chisinau: "One Should Only Speak Romanian"]

[Text] **"One should only speak Romanian." This is the decision that has been made by the Moldovan State Department for Languages. The head of the department, having summoned representatives of all the ministries to a conference, stated that, starting from 1 April, records may be kept only in the state language. Moreover, personal contacts at work between officials in languages other than Romanian are forbidden.**

Indignation caused by this decision was voiced by Cimpoies, of Gagauz nationality, director of the Department for Standards, who had been co-opted onto this state structure following the decision on forming a coalition government in the republic. However, he was reminded that "the officials of the department do not work in Russia, but in a country with a different state language."

Even though examinations of the leading cadres on their knowledge of the state language has been planned for 1994, the procedure has, in fact, already started and involves representatives of Russian and other national schools. Observers believe that this will push specialists from nonindigenous nationalities to leaving Moldova on a mass scale.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Discusses Political Problems in Russia

MK0704141893 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 15, 11 Apr 93 (signed to press 6 Apr) p A7

[Article by President Nursultan Nazarbayev under "In the Country" rubric: "Specter of General Misfortune Roaming CIS"]

[Text] Once again great Russia has not heeded Stolypin's warnings of "great upheavals" and has made everyone wince. The latest "Passiontide" in the Russian political calendar has ended. Throughout these days the world was following the events in Moscow, while Moscow in turn was listening to world reaction. This, naturally, was a very vigorous reaction. Including on the part of many countries' leaders.

I am perfectly well aware that people were awaiting from me, the president of Kazakhstan, an active attitude, assessments, and comments—maybe among the first. What is more, they awaited and pushed me toward unequivocal support for one of the sides in the conflict. They awaited harsh assessments and a statement in support of one politician or another. But I deliberately did not "place accents": If we have proclaimed ourselves an independent state and adopted definite rules of play in our relations, we must abide by them. The membrane between a public assessment of events in a neighboring friendly state and interference in its internal affairs is too thin. I do not want to "tear" it with an incautious word.

Today the close relationship between Russia and Kazakhstan is a stabilizing factor throughout the Eurasian area of the post-Soviet period. Our republics are objectively linked by national economic and military-political relations which originated in the distant past and are directed to the future. If a hiccup occurs in these relations, the consequences will be grave. And not only for our two republics. Therefore Kazakhstan has no less a need for stability in Russia than Russia does itself. The truest guarantor of this stability is stronger Russian statehood and a strong, authoritative, efficiently functioning state power. This means both a nationally elected president and an undoubtedly legitimate parliament. This is Kazakhstan's position: We will welcome all steps by the Russian leadership aimed at overcoming the crisis within the framework of a democratic process, within the framework of the law. The principle of the "separation of powers into innocent and guilty" does not exist for us here.

Moreover, the formulation of the question "Are you for Yeltsin or for Khasbulatov?" is utterly incorrect. Politics is not a sport, not a boxing ring: Are you rooting for the red corner or the blue? There is no need to separate the contestants into corners and "count blows." Still less is there any need to act as a referee. On the contrary, it is necessary to try to bring them together and to look for compromises together. I consider such "interference" perfectly admissible, even necessary. Particularly as I have normal relations with Boris Nikolayevich, with Ruslan Imranovich, and with other Russian politicians.

Appreciating the factor of interpersonal relations in politics, I try to make use of this. It so happened that at the moment of the Russian president's television appeal to the people, Khasbulatov was in Almaty. I met with him, and we had quite a long talk. I will not go into the details but will just say that I tried to ease the situation as far as I could. Evidently, I failed badly. But I am not abandoning the attempts.

No way can we be indifferent to Russian affairs. Above all, because Kazakhstan is tied to Russia not even by thousands but by millions of threads and millions of human destinies. For Russians make up one-third of our republic's population. In the name of these people, our citizens, I strive to promote the revival and prosperity of Russia, just as of my native Kazakhstan. On meeting with leaders of Western countries, for example, I always say: "Help Russia!" If Russia is strong and prosperous, we too will prosper.

Not everyone always understands this approach. When I received the leaders of Bashkortostan and Tatarstan in Uralsk last year, that definitely irritated the Russian authorities. At the time, while not responding to the pained suspicions of the federal leadership, we nonetheless deemed it necessary to place accents. I told my interlocutors: "We have a treaty with Russia, and you have the Federation Treaty. Let us build our relations within the framework of these documents, proceeding from the idea of Russian unity."

As regards an assessment of specific Russian events, particular steps, or statements at or around the Congress, I will not comment. I will only retort that a great statesman of the past once said: "Someone who stands tall must not venture upon impetuous movements." Unfortunately, Russian politicians do venture upon them, thereby greatly exacerbating the situation.

I can already hear the retort: Nazarbayev is playing a waiting game again. His favorite tactic, they say. Yes, we will "play a waiting game," so as not to destroy unintentionally the fragile balance that still exists or the vestiges of stability with our opinion or with one step or another.

About the reaction, incidentally. At the same time as the Congress passions were raging in Moscow, the agriculture ministers of all (I emphasize—all!) the republics of the former Union gathered on my initiative on Kazakhstani soil, at Akmol. I consider this, too, our constructive reaction. The leaders of the agro- industrial complex tackled in a calm and businesslike way a problem that is similar for them all and thought about how to combine efforts to feed the people, including Russia, this year. We are planning a similar "gathering" of industrialists in Karaganda in May. Life has to go on. Whether in a presidential republic or a parliamentary one....

Alma-Ata Submits Draft Agenda for Central Asian Conference

OW0704171793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interfax's correspondent has learned that Kazakhstan came out with a draft agenda for the conference of the leaders of Central Asian Countries and Kazakhstan to be held in Ashgabat on April 16-17. Alma-Ata calls for discussing the following questions:

1. The signing of an agreement between Central Asian countries and Kazakhstan on the major principles of economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, and the drafting of basic directions for restructuring the local economies.

2. The possibility of jointly using the Caspian Sea area.

3. The implementation of measures designed to stabilize the situation on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan and give humanitarian aid to Tajikistan.

4. Coordinated attitudes to the efforts to form efficient defence union agencies in conformity with the treaty on collective security.

5. The principles of ensuring the viability of an economic space with a single supranational monetary unit, free trade and customs union. (It is suggested to discuss in the framework of this point of the agenda the possibility of forming an intergovernmental economic committee with the necessary powers. Besides, Kazakhstan thinks it necessary to work out the principles of relations between the Central Asian countries and the states, which have not signed the CIS Charter).

IF Note: The leaders of the CIS countries in Central Asia held their previous summit in Tashkent on January 4. Participants in that summit pointed out that their striving for integration should not be interpreted as the endeavors to form a regional bloc as an alternative to the CIS.

Kyrgyzstan

Turkish President Arrives for Visit

LD0704173393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By correspondent Vladimir Fedorov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Turkish President Turgut Ozal was met at Bishkek's Manas Airport by Askar Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan. From the first days of its independence Kyrgyzstan declared its desire to keep step with Turkey and in line with its principle of building its economy and statehood. Turkey was one of the first to open its embassy in Bishkek and it has begun to actively expand its presence here and build business and cultural contacts. Developments in the education and communications sphere, and also telecommunications, have been the most notable.

The program of the Turkish president's visit includes the opening of a joint enterprise: a factory for the manufacture of sheepskin coats in Chu Oblast. Today's talks between Turgut Ozal and Askar Akayev are substantially broadening the sphere of economic cooperation, and Turkish credits totalling $75 million may be seen as helping to speed it up.

Among the nearly 300 people accompanying the eminent visitor from Ankara is a large group of businessmen who intend to breathe life into a joint project to inject private capital.

Meets With Akayev

OW0704222393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1923 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Negotiations between official delegations of Turkey and Kyrgyzstan headed by Presidents Turgut Ozal and Askar Akayev respectively took place behind closed doors in Bishkek on Wednesday [7 April].

At a press conference A. Akayev stressed that Kyrgyzstan preaches the same political and economic ideals as Turkey and that the Turkish model of development is an example instructive to all states of Central Asia. He stressed the significance of Turkey's role in the process of political and economic integration of the countries of Central Asia.

The President considers the assistance Turkey gave to the young independent state in joining the international political and economic community priceless. The President of Kyrgyzstan said Turkey was the first state to participate in the reconstruction of the Kyrgyz economy, having offered a Government credit for 75 Mn [million] dollars, which was put to the completing of construction on a joint-venture fur coat factory and will further be used for building a four-star international hotel in Bishkek.

The Turkish President Turgut Ozal has remarked that Kyrgyzstan has immense potential for making a leap forward. He emphasized that currently proposals are in the works on existing economic projects which Istanbul and Bishkek intend to implement together.

Offers To Promote Economic Development

LD0704185893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1707 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek April 7 TASS—Turkey will grant Kyrgystan a most-favoured nation status, finance the reconstruction of Kyrgyz economy, expand transport and communication networks and train Kyrgyz specialists, Turkish President Turgut Ozal said at a news conference here on Wednesday [7 April].

It was announced at a meeting with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev that Turkey had set up a special agency to prepare and implement programmes of the revival of the former Soviet central Asia.

Holds News Conference

TA0704185193 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by Mehmet Alkas in Bishkek]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The official talks between the Turkish and Kyrgyz delegations, headed by the presidents of the two countries, were concluded today. The protocols in connection with the talks will be signed tomorrow.

President Turgut Ozal and Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev held a joint news conference today. Ozal pointed out that Kyrgyzstan occupies an important place from the viewpoint of its location in the region and its natural resources. Commenting on the importance of developing relations among the Turkic republics, Ozal noted that as a result of this the Turkic republics will play a more active role in world politics. Ozal recounted that views were exchanged on regional problems and world developments during his meeting with Akayev. He declared that he and Akayev share the same views on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Karabakh, and Cyprus.

Akayev, in turn, remarked that relations between Kyrgyzstan and Turkey are based on history, adding that a period has begun in which ties that had been severed in the past are being reinforced. Pointing out that Turkey has contributed significantly to the restructuring of Kyrgyzstan, Akayev explained that Turkey has also helped his country become a member of international organizations. The Kyrgyz president also noted that his country supports Turkey's efforts to maintain stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Vows No 'Pan-Turkish Desires'

TA0804114393 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] President Turgut Ozal has said that there are no pan-Turkish desires in Turkey's relations with the Turkic republics. Addressing the Kyrgyz parliament in Bishkek, President Turgut Ozal said that Turkey established relations with the Turkic republics within the framework of equality and independence.

Our correspondent Ali Dogan reports from Bishkek: In his address, President Ozal said that relations must be conducted on the basis of noninterference in internal affairs and the principle of mutual interest.

Ozal pointed out that Turkey exerts great efforts for the restoration of peace in the Balkans and the Caucasus. He expressed the hope that these efforts will yield positive results.

The president stated that the point reached by Kyrgyzstan shows that there will be no turning back from the reform process started in that country. He said: Pluralism is the basic characteristic of democracy and political parties its inalienable elements. Opposition criticism is natural in democracies, and an effective opposition and a lively press are signs of a healthy democracy. Democracy may not be the ideal system but it is the best devised so far. That is why we must hold on to it tightly.

President Ozal pointed out that in order to help solve Kyrgyzstan's problems, in addition to making its own efforts, Turkey is trying to get the support of international organizations and the Western countries.

The president was later bestowed an honorary doctorate by the Kyrgyzstan Science of Academies. In a speech here, President Ozal said that the 21st century will be one of science and high technology and urged Turkish scientists to be prepared for that.

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev pointed out that thanks to the economic development plan it has been implementing in recent years, Turkey has reached the level of developed countries.

President Ozal visited the construction site of a hotel being built in Bishkek by Turkish businessmen. He also inaugurated a Kyrgyz-Turkish leather factory in Issyk-Ata region.

The president will conclude his contacts in Kyrgyzstan today and go to Kazakhstan tomorrow.

Tajikistan

Government in 'Full Control' of Country

LD0804104793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0743 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Dushanbe, 8 Apr—Bokhodur Abdulloyev, the deputy chairman of the National Security Committee of Tajikistan, described as not corresponding to reality the rumors disseminated in the republic regarding a new concentration of armed opposition forces in the Garmskiy group of rayons and in the Ramit ravine and a proposed spring offensive on Dushanbe.

He stated this in a conversation with a group of local and foreign journalists and stressed that the republic's government troops and security forces are in full control of the situation in the former outposts of the armed opposition.

The representative of the power structures admitted that at present in this region one meets small uncoordinated groups under the command of field commander Rizvon, the remnants of which were dispersed by the onslaught of government troops in the surrounding mountains. They continue to carry out small armed provocations and raids on government posts. However, they have neither sufficient forces, nor weapons for either a large-scale offensive, or simply for prolonged resistance.

Bokhodur Abdulloyev described as a main indicator of the futility of resistance the lack of support for fighters on the part of the majority of local residents who, he thinks, do not want new bloodshed on their land and refuse the fighters shelter and food more and more often.

Bokhodur Abdulloyev has also refuted some reports by the foreign media regarding the fact that the fighters, who have found themselves a soft spot in the mountains, are receiving help from neighboring Afghanistan. "This is impossible just for the reason that there is no communications of any sort—either by air, or by road," he said.

According to the opinion of a leader of the National Security service, the most realistic and sensible way out for fighters is to lay down their arms and not to increase the number of victims and their guilt before the people of Tajikistan.

At the same time, according to information of local independent observers, with the arrival of spring and the end of the sacred Moslem holiday, some movement has been observed among the forces resisting the constitutional authorities. For example, Rizvon's fighters made an attempt to attack the settlement of Novobad, situated near the rayon center of Garm. The so-called self-defense detachments in the Pamirs and first of all in Vanchskiy and Rushanskiy rayons, which were illegally visited recently by Davlat Usmon, a leader of the opposition, are not in a hurry to disarm.

Increasingly frequent attempts to send diversionary groups and emissaries from Afghanistan to Tajikistan to form "a fifth column" and direct acts of large-scale incursions into the territory of Tajikistan testify to the fact that the opposition did not abandon its plans to take revenge and forcibly remove the present authorities in Tajikistan.

No Demands Received Over Border Guards' Abduction

OW0704142793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Aleksandr Manilov, the head of the information analysis department in the border guard headquarters who was interviewed by INTERFAX, did not rule out the possibility that the 10 Russian border guards were abducted in Tajikistan "in retaliation" for the heavy losses sustained by gunmen in their attempt to force their way into Tajikistan.

Early on April 2 over 100 armed Tajiks and Afghan mujahidin crossed the Tajik border from Afghanistan. In a joint operation of the Tajik National Security Committee and Interior Ministry forces supported by Russian border guards over 80 gunmen were killed.

To the best of Manilov's knowledge, no demands have been made to the border guard command and no statements explaining the abduction have been forthcoming. The search for the men is underway in Tajikistan and Afghanistan through diplomatic and other channels.

This incident, Manilov thinks, will not trigger an escalation of border tension but he expects new provocations and infiltration attempts made for the purpose of creating conflict situations.

Armenia

EC Communique Asks Yerevan To Help Solve Karabakh Conflict

LD0804081993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0745 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Brussels April 8 TASS—EC member states applied to the Armenian Government with a demand to "use its influence in Nagorno-Karabakh with a view to withdraw troops from the Azeri territory" and to stop the confrontation in the region, says a communique circulated at the EC headquarters here on Wednesday night [7 April].

The European Community and its member states express regret over further exacerbation of the Karabakh conflict, the communique states. The EC is greatly concerned over the worsening of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and urges the conflicting sides not to neglect the peaceful talks which are now underway under the CSCE auspices.

Defense Minister Denies Army Role in Karabakh Fighting

LD0704205093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Vadimir Nazaryan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Armenia's anxiety at the new scale of military confrontation between the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan was expressed again today at a news conference by Defense Minister Vazgen Manukyan. Categorically refuting the participation in recent events by regular units of the National Army, and especially Russian troops, the head of Armenia's defense department shed light on other dark sides of the so-called Kelbadzhar tragedy which naturally have been subjected to skilfull retouching by the Azerbaijani media.

A powerful, wide-scale offensive has been prepared against Karabakh, and this is borne out by military maps discovered in Kelbadzhar—yet another attempt by Azerbaijan to solve the conflict by means of force.

[Begin Manukyan recording] Two groups of Azerbaijani troops have been created on both sides of Karabakh—from the Agdam side and from Kelbadzhar Rayon—which could break through to Karabakh and split it in two. Under these conditions military necessity has forced Karabakh to switch to the Kelbadzhar operation. The operation was carried out to ensure that there were sufficient intervals to enable the peaceful population to leave this area. [end recording]

According to refugees, subunits of the Azerbaijani Army prevented their compatriots from trying to use the corridors allowed them by the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic forces for safe evacuation.

[Begin Manukyan recording] These military actions simply will force Azerbaijan to realize that it will not succeed in solving the Karabakh question by military means, and the only way that remains is, without any prior conditions, to declare a truce and to sit down at the conference table. [end recording]

Discusses Karabakh, Turkey

NC0704173093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report on Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Manukyan news conference by Lida Gazaryan, in Yerevan on 7 April]

[Text] [Gazaryan] After a three-month break, Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Manukyan again met with reporters today. He focused on issues related to the Army. He noted that tangible results have been achieved in recent months, but he also mentioned existing shortcomings. He rejected press allegations concerning the Army, saying such claims do not reflect the facts.

Commenting on the latest operations by the Nagorno-Karabakh self- defense forces, Mr. Manukyan said:

[Manukyan] The latest operations have changed the nature of Karabakh problem. Yesterday I met the U.S. (?Congressmen) [six-minute break in transmission]. They were (?asking) how the Karabakh problem should be solved. I said: Of course, it should be solved by political negotiations. We have always declared our readiness for a cease-fire, and we have fulfilled all the agreements related to a cease-fire. It was the other side that failed to fulfill such agreements because it always hoped that it could solve this problem by military action.

During my contacts with the ambassadors of various countries over the last few months [word indistinct], I said that we can prove that Azerbaijan cannot solve the Karabakh problem by military means, and then Azerbaijan will be forced to sit at the negotiating table.

Now they ask how the problem is going to be solved at the negotiating table, and what status should be granted to Karabakh. I cannot say what decisions the politicians will make, but it is my personal view that any solution that leaves Karabakh within the Azerbaijani state structure is unacceptable. This is my personal view. Such a solution cannot be implemented. I am a mathematician by profession and now I am also the minister of defense, and these facts force me to approach every issue realistically. For me, leaving Karabakh within the Azerbaijani state structure is not realistic; there is no way to do it. Will the people of Karabakh ever agree to be disarmed? No. The only guarantee for the survival of Karabakh is that it has an Army and arms, and is able to struggle. The neighbors' promises [words indistinct] cannot constitute a guarantee; not even the (?UN troops) in Karabakh will constitute such a guarantee. The people of Karabakh will not (?accept it). The people of Karabakh are even suspicious of Armenia, afraid that the domestic political jockeying may force it to adopt a (?decision) detrimental to Karabakh. That is, Karabakh realizes that its Armed Forces are its sole guarantee for its survival. Which country will ever allow [words indistinct]?

Another point: Scores, even hundreds of peoples throughout history have struggled for their independence, and 99 percent of them have attained independence by exerting far less (?effort) [words indistinct].

There is talk about the inviolability of the borders. This is unacceptable for me. For me the inviolability of the borders is applicable for the West, for Europe, where two world wars took place to finally delineate these borders. Whereas, [word indistinct] the haphazardly drawn borders in the Soviet Union still need correction. Those principles, which are correct for the West, are not applicable to those regions inside the former Soviet Union. Failure to understand this means giving (?concrete shape) to all those falsehoods that existed in the former Soviet Union. [words indistinct]

In my opinion, the latest military operations by Karabakh have made Karabakh's position even firmer, and I am sure that Karabakh will be victorious and attain de jure independence, which it has already achieved de facto. This is my view on the future of Karabakh problem. However, everything must be done through negotiations [words indistinct].

[Gazaryan] After his statement, the Armenian defense minister replied to reporters' questions. Asked to comment on Azerbaijan's statement that it will be forced to declare a (?war) against Armenia, and if Armenia was ready to resist such an attack, Manukyan replied:

[Manukyan] The Karabakh movement was originally a political movement in which occasional shots were heard and people killed. However, after Getashen [a village in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon occupied by Azerbaijanis in 1991], the Karabakh movement turned into a military movement; that is, a war was declared. This war is still continuing. The Azerbaijani aggression started from that time on and from the time of the blockades. All these blockades and attacks on borders are aggression. What Azerbaijan is now saying is that this aggression will continue. [passage indistinct] There is (?nothing) new in it.

[Gazaryan] Asked about his assessment of the situation in the Azerbaijani Army at this moment and how he explains its military failures, Manukyan said:

[Manukyan] Various factors can be cited. In my view the foremost is the fact that the ethical issues facing the Azerbaijani and Armenian Armies are different. The people of Karabakh are struggling for their existence, to keep the land of their ancestors, and to defend their independence and freedom. Whereas, the Azerbaijani Army is fighting to usurp the Karabakh people's freedom. This plays a major role in the moral-political question placed before the military [words indistinct]. Many small countries have defeated larger countries when they have had to fight for survival and justice. This factor has a fundamental effect on war.

The second factor, in my view, has to do with national causes. Azerbaijani is a newly evolving nation, it still does not have that internal [passage indistinct].

[Gazaryan] Asked about Turkey's position on the latest developments and if the Armenian Army is taking part in Karabakh operations, Mr. Manukyan said:

[Manukyan] It is natural that Turkey cannot remain indifferent to these issues, in particular, considering that there are opposition forces there who want to exploit these developments [words indistinct]. However, I do not believe that, from the practical point of view, Turkey's interests and its political realities would allow it to actively intervene in this conflict [words indistinct].

As regards our army's participation on the side of the Karabakh Army, I already said that Armenia and Karabakh have separate Armies. There is also what I call the Army of the Armenians [Hayots banak], and I include these two armies within this concept of the Army of Armenians. However, structurally they are different. There are Armenian citizens [words indistinct] in the Karabakh Army, but there are no (?army units).

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Denounces World Community's Approach to Armenia

NC0804114893 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Report by Carole Landry]

[Excerpts] Moscow, April 7 (AFP) - Azerbaijan on Thursday [8 April] blasted the international community for failing to hold Armenia directly responsible for the occupation by forces from Nagorno- Karabakh of a large strip of territory in west Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey said in a statement released by the TURAN news agency that only Turkey and Iran had shown a more "consistent and honest approach" by recognizing that Armenia wanted to annex parts of Azerbaijani territory.

"These two countries have noted in their statements that the main reason for the deterioration of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict was the attempt by Armenia to annex Azerbaijani territory," Elchibey said.

Fighters from Nagorno-Karabakh last week seized the regional center of Kelbadzhar, located in west Azerbaijan, opening a supply corridor for arms and medical aid from Armenia proper to the Armenian-populated secessionist enclave.

In Geneva, the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said 200 Azeri refugees a day were still fleeing the Armenian advance to the towns of Gyandzha and Dashkesan, north of Kelbadzhar.

But those who had made it through the treacherous snow-covered mountain passes described horrific conditions, saying children were dying by the dozens which had many mothers to commit suicide in despair, according to UNHCR spokeswoman Marie Okabe.

Turkey and Iran called the take-over an "Armenian aggression" even though Armenia has repeatedly denied that its troops participated in the attack.

The UN Security Council and the European Community have called for an immediate withdrawal of Karabakh troops in the occupied territory and have urged the parties to begin peace talks under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"Western countries have shown restraint in their appreciation" of the deteriorating conflict, the statement said.

International involvement, in particular heightened concern from Turkey which has beefed up its troops along its border with Armenia, has sparked fears that the five-year war in Nagorno-Karabakh could engulf the entire region of the Caucasus.

Elchibey said however that Turkish officials "did not want to be dragged into events" surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh, a move that could lead to involvement by NATO allies in the conflict.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijani Defence Minister Dadash Rizayev was considering a visit to the southern Russian city of Sochi for talks on the expanding war of Nagorno-Karabakh, said presidential spokesperson Mikhman Aliyev, reached by phone from Baku.

Aliyev said the defence minister would answer an appeal launched by CIS commander in chief Marshall Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov to mediate talks between warring parties.

"That is the only initiative under way," Aliyev told AFP.

Rizayev was to meet on Friday with Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev and with Georgian and Armenian officials. [passage omitted]

In Yerevan, Presidential Spokesman Abram Abramian reiterated that Armenian troops did not participate in the attack on Kelbadzhar.

Abramian complained that the international community had not rushed to the defence of Armenians who were killed during several attacks by Azerbaijani forces on Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, Sergei Ponchakhin, said Russia was attempting to revive CSCE peace talks along with Turkey and other countries.

Elchibey Visits Border Areas, Meets Dzhebrailskiy Leader

NC0704185893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] President Elchibey left Baku for the border areas today. He has visited Dzhebrailskiy Rayon. The head of the rayon executive authority informed him that the situation is stable. The president attended several meetings.

CSCE Group Arrives in Baku To Study Karabakh Conflict

LD0704205493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1850 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By AZERTAJ correspondent Natan Barski for TASS]

[Text] Baku April 7 TASS—An advance group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), headed by a representative of this organization Heikki Happonen, arrived in Baku today. He held discussions on possible ways to resolve the Armenian-Azeri conflict with Azerbaijan's state foreign policy adviser Wafa Gulizade.

In two days the group will leave by air for the combat zone to acquaint itself with the situation. Preparations are underway for the arrival of 600 international observers to the Transcaucasus.

The CSCE advance group members also plan to visit Armenia.

Official Receives UN Envoy, Notes 'Armenian Aggression'

NC0704183493 Baku TURAN in English 1459 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Baku, April 7 (TURAN)—Today Counselor of the President of the Republic on International Problems Vafa Guluzade received a special representative of the secretary general of the United Nations organization in Azerbaijan Mahmud al-Said. During the talk they discussed the questions concerning Armenian aggression in Kelbadzharskiy region.

Mahmud al-Said informed about the results of his trip to Kelbadzharskiy region and meetings with refugees. According to him the results of the work of the United Nations organization commission which he is in charge of can draw a conclusion that Kelbadzharskiy region was attacked from Armenian territory. The UN commission considers the military actions in this region as an act of Armenian aggression, violence of state frontier of Azerbaijan. As a result of it there are many victims, a number of refugees and destructions.

The results of the commission work will be put in report and submitted for consideration in the UN. On the basis of the report and resolution project the final document will be approved.

Calls Security Council Marks 'New Step'

NC0704182893 Baku TURAN in English 1459 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Baku, April 7 (TURAN)—Counselor of the President of Azerbaijan on International Problems Vafa Guluzade commenting the resolution project of the UN Security Council on the occasion of Armenian aggression said that this project with streamline forms has marked a new step. For the first time the conflict is being said as an Armenian-Azeri one, however before they prefer to speak about the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Vafa Guluzade noted that in the document there is an appeal to withdrawing of Armenian troops from the captured territories starting with Kelbadzharskiy region.

"Azerbaijan diplomacy must make every effort so that the Security Council will approve a real denouncing document for there is no legal difference between the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and the occupation of Azerbaijan by Armenia."

Denies Delegation Withdrew From Geneva Talks

NC0704184893 Baku TURAN in English 1528 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Baku, April 7 (TURAN)—Counselor of the President of Azerbaijan on International Problems Vafa Guluzade during his conversation with TURAN correspondent disproved the information that Azerbaijan delegation stopped its participation in negotiations in Geneva.

V. Guluzade noted that because of the beginning of the meeting of the UN Security Council and discusing of the question of Armenian aggression the Minister of Foreign Affairs Tofik Gasymov had to fly urgently to New-York.

V. Guluzade stressed that Azerbaijan does not intend to stop negotiations on political settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Defense Ministry Says Armenian Offensive Continues

OW0704142493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yesterday, the Armenian formations continued their offensive in Azerbaijan's Kelbadzhar region, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry informed INTERFAX. Fighting continued in the region of the Murovdag mountain pass, the seizure of which would allow Armenians to shell the cities of Gyandzha and Khanlar.

The fate of the several thousand Azerbaijani civilians, encircled in the Kelbadzhar region, was still unknown, and all attempts to drop foodstuffs, medicines and blankets to the encircled areas were unsuccessful because the helicopters were shelled.

According to Baku, the Armenian forces' offensive on the regional center of Fizuli has been stopped. In the morning April 7, there were combat operations about five kilometers from the city. The Armenians' attack on Azerbaijan's Kubatly region was also stopped.

Meanwhile, Stepanakert reports that on the night April 6, the Azerbaijani forces launched a major offensive on the Karabakh center of Martuni from the city of Agdam. The Karabakh self-defense forces were rebuffing the attack. Fighting continues.

According to the same source, the Armenian formations checked one more Azerbaijani attack from the south towards the Lachin corridor linking Karabakh and Armenia. The Azerbaijanis retreated to their previously occupied positions. At least five Azerbaijani soldiers were killed.

Baku Military Commandant Orders Curfew

NC0704191093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Order issued by Baku military commandant on 7 April; read by announcer]

[Text] In accordance with Paragraph 6 of the President's Decree on the Declaration of a State of Emergency in Azerbaijan, dated 2 April 1993, I, hereby, order:

1. A curfew be imposed in Baku City from 0000 to 0300, beginning on 9 April.

2. The Baku City Military Commandant's headquarters and the military headquarters in the city's districts be assigned the task of imposing the curfew.

3. The leading officials of organizations, administrations, and establishments and the city residents be informed that the movement of citizens and vehicles without the necessary permits during the curfew hours will be restricted.

4. This order be brought to the attention of the Baku City residents through the mass media.

[Signed] Major General Abdullah Guseyn ogly Allakhverdiyev

Bans Black Market Trading

NC0704210193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Order issued by Baku military commandant on 7 April; read by announcer]

[Text] Considering the effort made to impose the state of emergency regime in Baku City and the demands of the people, I, hereby, order:

1. Black market trading, [word indistinct], and bargaining on vehicles in the Nizami, Khatayi, Binegadi,

Yasama, Sabundzhy, and [name indistinct] districts of Baku City be banned during the state of emergency regime.

2. This order be conveyed to the military commandants in the districts and the district executive authorities.

3. The Baku City Military Commandant's headquarters be assigned the task of supervising the implementation of this order.

[Signed] Major General Abdullah Guseyn ogly Allakhverdiyev

Georgia

Foreign Minister Protests Reports of Russians 'Humiliated'

LD0204174593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1730 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday, on 31 March, Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze handed a note to Mr. Vladimir Zemskoy, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Georgia. The note, in particular, says that on 31 March, ITAR-TASS agency reported that there is no water and gas in Sukhumi and there are not enough foodstuffs there, but the agency does not report that this is the work of the Gudauta separatists, who receive unlimited support from the Russian Armed Forces.

Referring to the statement of Lieutenant General Aleksandr Chindarov, the deputy commander of the armed assault-landing troops, ITAR-TASS is trying to delude the Russian public by maintaining that "the Russians are being humiliated and insulted." According to A. Chindarov, the attitude of the Georgian authorities toward his compatriots goes beyond all boundaries of civilized relations and demands immediate intervention of the country's leadership. The above-mentioned facts testify that influential forces are acting in Russia that, like before, prefer to resort to forceful methods instead of, through collective efforts, achieving dismantling of the crisis situation that represents a great danger to the peaceful future of the whole region, the note says. The statement of the deputy commander of the armed assault-landing troops begs a conclusion that, under the conditions where the Russian troops' interference in the conflict on the side of Abkhazian separatists is becoming clear to the world public, some representatives of the command need an excuse to legalize this interference. We are ready even now to receive—moreover, invite—an authoritative fact- finding commission of any international organization and a group of the Russian Supreme Soviet in order to be convinced, on the spot and with their own eyes, of the groundlessness of Lt. Gen. A. Chindarov's assertions.

Parliament Responds

OW0404161893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1526 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Careful investigations conducted locally have proved that the allegations of the Deputy Commander of Russian airborne troops are false. Lt.-General Aleksandr Chindarov asserted that ethnic Russians living in Sukhumi are subjected to humiliation, insults and plunder. This was announced on Sunday [4 April] in a statement issued by spokesmen for the Georgian parliament, for the human rights and ethnic relations committee and for the international public diplomacy mission on the conflict in Abkhazia.

According to the document, all civilians in Sukhumi, regardless of their ethnicity, suffer from the hardships and tribulations characteristic of a front-line city.

"General Chindarov's statement and similar propagandistic actions of Russia's Defence Ministry show that the Russian military are planning large-scale operations in Georgia," the document says. "There is every reason to believe that this reflects the attempts to involve Russia in a new politico-military adventure, such as the one in Afghanistan."

Russian Air Defense Units Transferred to Defense Ministry

MK0304082693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Apr 93 p 15

[Vladimir Savvin report: "It Will Not Be Possible To Compensate Fully for Loss of Caucasus Bridgehead"]

[Text] Yesterday the command of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus and the chief command of the Russian air defense forces completed the transfer to the Georgian Armed Forces of the installations of the 19th Special Russian Air Defense Army located on the republic's territory. Thus the Russian air defense system has been deprived of its combat positions along a more than 1000-km stretch of the state's southern borders. To close the resultant "gap" Russia will need to create an air defense group, comparable in its combat capability, as part of the North Caucasus Military District.

Agreement in principle on the transfer of the Russian air defense installations to the Georgian Defense Ministry was reached at the end of 1992 during the second round of Russo-Georgian interstate negotiations, as reported by KOMMERSANT-DAILY in its 23 December issue. Prior to that moment, following the start of large-scale combat operations on the territory of Abkhazia, the first to leave the republic on orders from Moscow was an air defense fighter regiment located at the Bombora airfield near Gudauta. Shortly before its removal it had received supermodern Su-27 interceptor- fighters to replace the obsolete MiG-25's, but the evolution of the political situation in the region never allowed the most up-to-date aviation complex to be integrated into the CIS air defense system in the Caucasus—the system itself simply ceased to exist.

During March the remaining positions of the antiaircraft-missile and radiotechnical troops of the 96th Air Defense Division were transferred to the Georgian Armed Forces. Observers note that Georgia was the last of the Caucasian republics where structures of Russia's integrated air defense system still remained. Therefore with their handover to the republic's national army, an unprotected "gap" of more than 1,000 km has emerged in Russia's southern air borders. Quite naturally, the Russian Defense Ministry is making hectic efforts to form a new air defense line along the southern boundary of the North Caucasus Military District, including by transferring there some of the units now being withdrawn from Europe. KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts believe that this task can well be accomplished within a short term, especially if new C-300-type mobile antiaircraft systems are deployed there. In their opinion, however, the former strategic position of the air defense grouping in the high mountains that made it possible, with the skillful positioning of radar posts, to control a substantial airspace deep in the territory of the bordering states, will be lost. The radars' field of view will shrink considerably since their antennas will be directed at the mountain wall of the Caucasus ridge.

Commander Views Russian-Georgian Military Problems

AU0804081693 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 30 Mar 93 p 1,2

[Interview with Army General Boris Dyukov, deputy commander of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus, by SG correspondent Inga Abgarova; place and date not given: "Interest Should Be Expressed in Actions"]

[Text] **SG dossier: Boris Nikolayevich Dyukov was born in 1946. He graduated from the Far East tank school. He served in the tank and motorized rifle troops. He received his higher military education in the Armored Forces Academy. He then graduated from the General Staff Academy. He served as Army deputy commander in Armenia and later fulfilled the duties of commander of this Army. Since November 1992, he has been deputy commander of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus for emergency situations.**

[Abgarova] **Boris Nikolayevich, what has changed with the renaming of the Transcaucasian Military District and what was the reason for this?**

[Dyukov] Georgia is a sovereign state. Therefore, Russian military formations located on its territory can be called nothing but a group of forces. The district exists only within the borders of one state. What has changed perhaps is the authorized strength that has been significantly reduced along with the weaponry that is being transferred to the Georgian Ministry of Defense.

[Abgarova] **Can you specify what exactly has been transferred to the Georgian side and the quantities involved?**

[Dyukov] All the weaponry of the 10th Akhaltsikhe division and also the district training center. However, according to the information of the Georgian Ministry of Defense, of the 25,000 pieces of weaponry transferred by us, more than 20,000 have mysteriously disappeared. In general, I must say that I personally do not understand the reluctance here regarding the transfer of everything that was agreed. Thus, the question of the transfer of 43 military camps (barracks, mess halls, production facilities—there are no weapons and equipment there) is being delayed while, as I have been informed, Colonel Anatoliy Babuteishvili, who passes himself off as an assistant of the General Command of the National Guard, is planning to storm the camp in Mtskheta [a few kilometers outside Tbilisi], which is not, as yet, to be transferred. How one can refuse to accept, let us say, shops, personal services and goods enterprises, potato storage facilities, refrigerators is also incomprehensible....

[Abgarova] **What, in your view, is the reason for this?**

[Dyukov] The fact that there is no treaty between Georgia and Russia, and no specific agreement on the status of our troops.

[Abgarova] **You have experience in the efficient transfer of property in Armenia. What is hindering the process here?**

[Dyukov] Again the fact that, first, we have no agreement. However, not only this. There are things that can be done even now. A special commission was formed fairly quickly in Armenia that also dealt with reception [of the property]. They tell me in Georgia: "We're fighting. We have no time." However, as I understand it, it is precisely Georgia that is interested in the quickest implementation of all these measures, but interest should be expressed in actions.

[Abgarova] **You are a military man who has devoted almost 30 years of his life to service. What, in your view, is lacking in the Georgian Army?**

[Dyukov] Discipline and training. This does not come as any surprise as I know that junior officers, for example, have not been trained in Georgia for a long time.

[Abgarova] **It is difficult to believe that, let us say, the Abkhaz side is better trained for combat actions and manages without any help from....**

[Dyukov] If you mean Russian troops, they are not taking part in the conflict. Naturally, I cannot answer for individual mercenaries.

[Abgarova] **As we know, Russian soldiers guarding the laboratory in Nizhnaya Eshera receive their supplies by helicopter.... Why do you think Russia continues to keep**

its troops in Georgia even in those regions where servicemen's lives are directly in danger? Does it really stand to gain from this?

[Dyukov] Why does this surprise you so much? It is a common policy in various states to maintain troops on the territory of a foreign state. There are many examples of this in the world. The United States maintains troops in Germany, Iraq, and so forth. However, there is a difference here. Russian troops were in Georgia during the existence of the USSR, when this was one state. It is another matter that we cannot withdraw our troops in one day, as you yourself understand. The withdrawal can only proceed according to a special timetable, and there is also a delay in jointly drawing this up. Here, of course, the fault lies with both sides.

[Abgarova] **However, you cannot fail to agree that the stubbornness with which Russian troops are maintaining their positions in Nizhnaya Eshera testifies to the particular importance of the laboratory there.**

[Dyukov] Yes, our servicemen do indeed find themselves in danger there. However, I do not know the details regarding the laboratory. Obviously it has something worth protecting but I personally have not been there and cannot judge.

[Abgarova] **Can one speak about the creation of combined armed forces of the CIS?**

[Dyukov] Perhaps we will have these when there is a CIS. What we now call by this name is not a commonwealth.

[Abgarova] **My last question again concerns what is of the greatest concern to us—the events in Abkhazia. Do you think that the withdrawal of Russian troops from the conflict zone will contribute to its normalization?**

[Dyukov] You see, I do not know the number and composition of troops located in the conflict zone. Therefore, I cannot judge how they influence the situation. As regards simply the irritant factor, it is possible for just one person to act as an irritant. All this is not so simple.

Abkhaz 'Separatists' Reportedly Use Esheri Lab as Base

LD0704224893 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] [No dateline as received] The Russian Armed Forces have been waging an undeclared war against the independent Republic of Georgia for some time now. The main reason for the Russian military authorities' involvement in the conflict is the seismic laboratory situated in Esheri, which is shrouded in secrecy. All the attempts by the Georgian Government to get to the bottom of the issue of the Esheri laboratory meet with fierce resistance from the Russian side.

The laboratory is a reinforced concrete structure with its own research center. The Esheri laboratory is a top secret establishment. With the aim of observing total security at such establishments, Russian specialists build the same sort of buildings nearby and these other buildings could be the main one rather than the first one which was the focus of attention. The real seismic laboratory is in the settlement of (Kutishkha) on the outskirts of Esheri and one must bear in mind that the Esheri laboratory is being used as a cover for this. This is confirmed by a statement made by the Georgian defense minister, which was made on 2 April. At the present time, Abkhazian separatists are using the Esheri laboratory as their main military base.

Fighting Continues in Abkhazia Despite Cease-Fire

LD0704135293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Irina Schegoleva]

[Text] Sochi April 7 TASS—"Despite an agreement on a ceasefire in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict reached at talks in Sochi on Tuesday, Georgian troops have stepped up their military operations, the Sochi headquarters of Abkhazian refugees told ITAR-TASS with reference to the press service of the Abkhazian parliament.

An exchange of gun and machine gun fire continued along the Gumista front line. The Georgian side continues shelling the settlements of Gwandra, Eshera and a laboratory of Russian troops.

The press service of the Abkhazian parliament reported that the Georgian side was reinforcing its formations in the conflict zone.

In the eastern direction, positions of Abkhazian armed forces and settlements of the Ochamir regions are being shelled from artillery weapons. The Abkhazian Defence Ministry reported that Georgia was concentrating its troops near a railroad.

UN Representative Arrives in Abkhazia

LD0704183893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Pierre Karstrem, a United Nations representative, arrived in Sukhumi today. He has been to Abkhazia before. In an interview with the SAKINPORM news agency, he declared that he shies away from making political declarations as that is in the competence of Feodor Starcevic, the permanent United Nations representative to Georgia.

Mr. Karstrem declared that a third United Nations fact-finding and monitoring mission will soon visit Georgia for which he is gathering information. With this aim he has already visited Ochamchire, and if he has an opportunity he will go to Gudauta as well.

In Mr. Karstrem's opinion, it will be very difficult to reach an agreement on a cease-fire. As he said, preliminary demands put forward by the Gudauta side regarding Georgia's absolute withdrawal of troops from Abkhazia are unrealistic.

North Caucasus, Cossacks To Sign Mutual Assistance Treaty

OW0504133793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1226 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The North Caucasian republics and Cossacks have no territorial claims on each other's land and will resolve all issues through negotiations. This is the essence of a final document adopted at a "round table" meeting of political parties and movements of North Caucasus and Cossacks of Russian South which ended in Pitsunda, Abkhazia, Monday [5 April].

An Interfax correspondent reports that a congress of the peoples of North Caucasus and Russian South is to be convened shortly to sign a cooperation and mutual assistance treaty between the peoples of North Caucasus and Russian South.

The round table objected to a summit between Georgia's Eduard Shevardnadze and Russia's Boris Yeltsin but called for a trilateral meeting of Shevardnadze, Yeltsin, and Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhazian leader.

Yuriy (Musa) Shanibov, Caucasus People's Confederation (CPC) President, told Interfax that "if Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze do not understand that the problem of Abkhazia has to be resolved soon we will resolve it militarily by winning the war."

Yusup Soslanbekov, Chairman of the CPC parliament, thinks that the main result of the "round table" is the joining of efforts of the Cossacks and North Caucasian peoples in stabilizing the regional situation.

NATO Chief Accepts Shevardnadze Invitation, Reciprocates

LD0204201393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The head of the Georgian parliament, head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, received a letter from NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner sent on 12 March in which he thanks Eduard Shevardnadze for his letter dated 29 January. In the letter, Georgia expresses the desire to take a more active part in the activity of the North Atlantic Council and, with this aim, to send a Georgian delegation to NATO Headquarters. NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner expresses readiness to cooperate with Georgia and members of the Georgian delegation. At the same time, he hopes that Eduard Shevardnadze will find time and opportunity to visit NATO Headquarters himself, by invitation of the NATO secretary general, in the nearest future in order to make cooperation more fruitful and productive. As for his invitation to Georgia, which Eduard Shevardnadze sent to Mr. Woerner on 29 January, he will visit Tbilisi with pleasure, confirming the exact date in the nearest future, the letter says.

Shevardnadze To Visit Ukraine 11-12 Apr

LD0304145393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] At the invitation of Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, Georgia's leader Eduard Shevardnadze is to pay an official visit to Ukraine on 11-12 April. A package of treaties will be discussed and signed on friendly relations and mutual help between the two countries. This has been reported by the press service of the head of the Georgian state.

Parliament Ratifies Friendship Treaty With Azerbaijan

LD0704215193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1830 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By Georgian Information Agency for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi April 7 TASS—Georgian parliament ratified on Wednesday [7 April] the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual security between Georgia and Azerbaijan, which was signed on February 3, 1993 in Baku.

Bank Releases Coupons With Equal Ruble Value

LD0504092393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0736 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi April 5 TASS—National Bank of Georgia has introduced coupons of the value of five, ten, fifty, one hundred, one thousand, five and ten thousand as of today. Their exchange rate against the Russian rouble has been fixed as one to one.

The introduction of these coupons has been necessiated by Russia's refusal to supply cash to the republic, although an agreement to this effect was concluded.

Shevardnadze Comments

LD0504153093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Today, in Georgia, coupons are being put into circulation. In his traditional radio address, Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the Georgian State, touching on this event, described it as a forced measure, and said it does not mean that the republic is leaving the ruble zone. He added that it is necessary to raise wages and that a large volume of coupons must not be put into circulation at once. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Chairs First Constitutional Commission Meeting

LD0304115793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The state constitutional commission for drafting Georgia's new basic law began work today. The first session is being chaired by the commission's chairman, the head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze. He said that the new constitution will be based on the basic law constitution adopted in 1921 by the Georgian Democratic Republic before it was sovietized, but reworked taking account of the present realities. It is expected that the new draft constitution will be presented for examination by the Georgian parliament at the start of next year.

Parliament Issues Decree To Counter 'Ethnic Cleansing'

AU0704091893 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 2 Apr 93 p 1

["Decree of the Georgian Parliament on the Implementation of Necessary Measures To Protect the Lives and Security of the Peaceful Population in the Zone of Armed Conflict" issued in Tbilisi on 1 April]

[Text] A policy of ethnic cleansing that has assumed the character of genocide directed against Georgian and non-Georgian citizens is being implemented on that part of Georgian territory in Abkhazia that is controlled by the Gudauta separatist group with the aid of Russian troops.

In order to save the peaceful population, the Georgian Parliament **decrees:**

1. To entrust the Georgian National Security and Defense Council with creating, within the shortest period of time, an emergency commission for the release of the peaceful population and hostages and prisoners that, together with the Ministry of Defense Commission for the Release of Military Prisoners, will outline and implement effective measures in order to resolve the assigned tasks. If necessary, to allow the temporary evacuation of the peaceful population from the territory controlled by the Gudauta separatist group in order to save their lives.

2. Expeditiously to dispatch to Abkhazia a delegation composed of members of the Georgian Parliament, the National Security and Defense Council, and the Cabinet of Ministers under the leadership of Aleksandr Kavsadze, chairman of the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations to study the situation that has taken shape and outline concrete measures.

3. Immediately to direct the attention of international organizations and public opinion to facts of ethnic cleansing taking place on a part of Georgian territory with the aid of a foreign country in order to halt the aggression that is their direct cause.

4. The Georgian National Security and Defense Council and the Cabinet of Ministers are to take the necessary measures that will guarantee the return of forcibly displaced citizens to their places of residence and are to create the appropriate conditions for this.

Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament

Tbilisi, 1 April 1993

Parliament Passes Citizenship Law

MK0204135493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 93 p 3

[Nodar Broladze report: "Citizenship Law and Hostages Problem. Shevardnadze Hopes To Meet With Yeltsin Soon"]

[Excerpt] A law on citizenship passed by the Georgian parliament is regarded as an undoubted success for the supreme legislature. Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze described the law as "constitutional and humane" at a press conference called specially for the occasion. This document is to be tried out for several months until a draft of Georgia's new constitution is submitted by the year's end. Experts, including international experts, think that the law on citizenship fully meets modern democratic standards. All citizens regardless of their nationality, faith, and other distinctions, are granted equal rights. Everyone who has lived in the country for at least five years is automatically granted citizenship. Naturalization, however, envisions a 10-year residence term [last two sentences as published]. Every member of society is expected to sign, within three months after the passing of the law, a declaration certifying their respect for Georgia's state interests and its language. "Despite differences existing between the parliamentary factions, national interests were put above party interests during the drafting of this law," the parliament speaker stressed. The law is designed to consolidate society and have a pacifying influence on the Abkhaz conflict: only the Abkhaz people are not considered a national minority. [as published] As was stated by Irina Sarishvili, a National Democratic Party deputy, the law supports the legal parity of citizens of various nationalities in every possible way. "In Georgia, there are no second-class citizens, nor will there be," one of the press conference participants observed. According to Shalva Natelashvili, chairman of parliament's juridical commission, the passing of such a law attests to parliament's growing political maturity. Traditionalists, Liberals, and National Democrats especially distinguished themselves in the collective creative effort.

A state usually begins its legal activities by creating the country's constitution, and only subsequently to pass laws. The Georgian parliament did it in reverse. Natelashvili explained this by reference to the fact that the Constitution would be able thereby to be founded upon laws that had already stood the test of time. It was also revealed that the state would drop the propiska [domicile registration] system in due course, and residence passports would be replaced by special identity cards. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Foreign Ministry Protests Yeltsin's Statement on Baltics

LD0604185493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed a protest in connection with the utterances by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, at a press conference in Vancouver, on linking the timetable for withdrawing the Russian Army stationed in Latvia and Estonia to tackling the human rights issues of the Russian-speaking inhabitants of the Baltics.

Aivars Vovers, deputy secretary of state for eastern affairs in the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today invited Valeriy Nesterushkin, counsellor of the embassy of the Russian Federation, for a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in order to make known to him the standpoint of the Latvian side on the utterances by the Russian president.

In the view of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yeltsin's utterances by Yeltsin contradict the conclusions of international experts on Latvian legislation in the field of human rights and also the repeated announcements by the Russian leaders themselves to the effect that human rights issues and troop withdrawal will not be mutually linked.

Nesterushkin will make the official standpoint of the Latvian side known to the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Andreyevs Voices 'Surprise'

OW0704205193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1720 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andreyevs now on a visit in the U.S. in an interview with the Diena newspaper expressed "surprise and disappointment" at President Yeltsin's statement on the Baltic issue.

Speaking at the end of summit talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Vancouver, Yeltsin accused Latvia and Estonia of discrimininating their Russian-speaking communities. He linked the timetable of Russian troop withdrawals from the two countries to a review of their policy towards ethnic minorities. Andreyevs described this as an attempt to try to legalise the consequences of Soviet occupation and wipe out Latvian independence. However, he said Latvia would not bow to external pressure or allow "a repeat of the 1940 events" if a new crisis broke out.

"Charges of human rights violations in the Baltic countries come from the same anti-democratic forces which try to sabotage Yeltsin's government... Those force hope to be able to dismantle Latvian independence and make part of a great Russian empire", Andreyevs said.

Parliament Passes Bill on Militia

OW0704144893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1048 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday Latvia's parliament passed a bill on the country's militia (Zemessardze), which describes it as a paramilitary unit for public self-defence, formed on a voluntary basis.

Zemessardze aims to recruit local citizens with a view to defending society and its territory. Zemessardze is a component of the national armed forces; it takes part in planning and accomplishing national defence tasks, in ensuring law and order in the country, and in helping individuals, enterprises, institutions and organizations to exercise their rights in conformity with the legislation.

Political activity in the Zemessardze structures is forbidden.

Those who eligible to join Zemessardze are Latvian citizens aged 18 and older, who have a good command of the official language, and who are willing to serve in the organization. [sentence as received]

Minister Says 80 Percent of Enterprises 'Bankrupt'

LD0704185293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchkina]

[Text] Riga April 7 TASS—About 80 per cent of Latvian enterprises are actually bankrupt, Aivars Millers, minister for industry and energy, said on Tuesday addressing Latvian parliament.

On that day, Latvian lawmakers had to make their way to the venue of the meeting through pickets of workers, who demanded their wages which they did not get for months.

After listening to the minister, the lawmakers chose not to discuss the situation. They did not discuss confidence to Millers, either—although the trade unions insisted on it. The government will stay in office for a couple of months only: new parliamentary elections will be held in June.

The prevailing opinion holds the national bank and parliament responsible for the economic crisis in Latvia. According to the local business community, the Bank of Latvia first did its utmost to dissociate Latvian enterprises from the eastern markets; then, by forcing up the exchange rate, the bank ruined those who managed to switch on to the western markets.

Lithuania

U.S. Delegation Arrives in Vilnius on POW Search

LD0704184593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1636 GMT 7 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius April 7 TASS—A high-ranking delegation of U.S. officials headed by Malcolm Toon, ambassador at large and chairman of the committee for the search of American prisoners of war, arrived here on Tuesday [6 April]. The delegation was received by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas. Immediately after this meeting with the head of state, Ambassador Malcolm Toon called a news conference for local and foreign journalists at the Seimas building.

Speaking on the purposes of the delegation's visit to Lithuania, Malcolm Toon noted that the main of them were mutual exchange of information about American prisoners of the Second World War and acquainting representatives of the Lithuanian Government with this committee's activities. The delegation also aims at obtaining the possibility to address directly the people of the republic who were in gulags in their time with the request to give any information known to them connected with American citizens kept in the Stalinist camps.

The American ambassador noted that the committee established perspective cooperation in this field with the Russian authorities, particularly with Russian President Boris Yeltsin who was the first to give a helping hand to the American side.

Officer Says Withdrawal of Russian Troops Unchanged

OW0704222593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1720 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [6 April], the withdrawal of the Klaipeda- and Telsai- located Third Coast Guard Division of the Armed Forces of Russia from Lithuania actually commenced. The Lithuanian Government Representative on the issues of troop withdrawal, colonel Stasys Knezys informed "Baltfax" that the declaration made by Russia on the halt of the pull-out of troops from the Baltic countries has had no impact on Lithuania where tempos remain unchanged.

The colonel said that approximately 1,600 servicemen and material of the Third Division are to leave Lithuania by August, 20. The division shall be disbanded and the staff transferred to other units and locations. The withdrawal of the Division is currently being carried out with the use of motor vehicles, which shall be replaced by a railroad approach in May.

S. Knezys says the military command of Russia has requested Lithuania to allow 700 to 800 unarmed soldiers into the republic to assist the units leaving its territory. The plea shall be answered by the Ministry of Territorial Defense of Lithuania.

S. Knezys promised to do his best to promote the granting of such permission. "The admission of several hundred unarmed soldiers is worth the completion of the withdrawal of armed divisions a month earlier." Up to 40 percent of Russian troops have left the republic since the schedule for their withdrawal was adopted on September, 8 1992. 12,000 still remain in Lithuania.

New Delegation to Talks With Russia Formed

PM0704171393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 93 First Edition p 7

[Correspondent Yuriy Stroganov report: "New Team for Moscow Talks"]

[Text] The new Lithuanian delegation for the talks with Russia will have to maneuver more in the light of the political situation. That was stated by its new leader, Virgilius Bulavas. He has replaced in that post Vytautas Landsbergis' loyal comrade-in-arms Ceslovas Stankevicius. The makeup of the actual delegation has also been renewed, retaining only three of the previous members.

The opposition alleged in advance that the Democratic Labor Party would alter the makeup of the delegation in compliance with Russian interests and... pressure. However, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas stressed that there were no demands whatever from Russia and that this issue falls within the remit of the president and government. Incidentally, it was proposed that a representative of the opposition join the delegation, but the person in question refused.

The delegation's aims will remain the same. The new members will be meeting with the old to ensure continuity.

Economy Minister Views Reform, Prices

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[Interview with Minister of Economy Julius Veselka by journalist Vytautas Bacis; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Bacis] Esteemed minister, we have to admit that we live (?in poverty). Judging from the prices for goods, the prices for municipal services, and if we judge from our own wages, well, some people say that the economic reform is to blame because it was halted, while others say that it is not proceeding at all. So, what is this economic reform?

[Veselka] First of all it means free prices. Second, it means privatization. And third, it means a decent system of taxation, that is, taxation that does not ruin the producer and stimulates the investment. It also means dissociating ourselves from all the relics of socialism which cost a lot of money. This includes the unduly large budget apparatus. I have in mind free medical care and free education which is a great burden on the Lithuanian budget today.

[Bacis] So, who is right, those who maintain that the economic reform has gotten bogged down, or those who maintain that it has not started at all yet?

[Veselka] Those who heard the prime minister's answers to the questions. I can tell you with confidence that this was the first time that some things had been said without any implications or claims because it was firmly said: No diversion from the free market, no diversion from privatization, there will be only minimum subsidies, the consumers—both private persons and the enterprises—must pay the same price for electricity, heating, and all the rest.

Therefore, if he does not step back from this policy I can boldly say that in two years time we will realize what a free market means in real terms. [words indistinct] However, if we start stepping back from this policy-...[changes thought] As you have heard, there will be pressure to do this because somebody has found some laws for setting prices from [President] Smetona's times. So, there is a danger that that will be pressure and if we, as the government, manage to resist this pressure then I can say that it still will be difficult for two years.

[Bacis] It is nice to hear that from you, but nevertheless, what should be the first starting steps, starting with what?

[Veselka] They have already started in spite of the great pressure to reinstate, say the setting of food prices by decree. We, the government, decided on Saturday that we will not go back to that. We did not proceed along the path of a free market when we restricted trade concessions and when we restricted the profitability of the food processing industry. This will have a negative effect later when additional investment will have to be made in the industry.

At present we must find all the reserves and develop the strategy of where to get more means in order to help the poor people. Today, I can boldly say that some of the people who are driving foreign cars are receiving state [security] benefits. This should not be so.

[Bacis] You maintain that it should not be so. However, it is so.

[Veselka] Indeed it is so. Perhaps some will not like my saying that from a legal point of view a gipsy camp is managed better today than the state of Lithuania.

[Bacis] I did not expect to hear that from the minister of economy.

[Veselka] We can see in real terms that in practice those who want to pay taxes pay them and those who don't don't. Those who want to work work and those who do not feel like it don't. So why is it? There is greater order in a gipsy camp.

[Bacis] We maintain that we live in a democratic state, and therefore, in this sense everything depends on the work of your ministry [words indistinct]

[Veselka] There is no doubt about that, and as a minister I am not claiming that I have done everything to ensure that Lithuania can function normally as a state. However, I stressed that the reform is being carried out (?as much as possible). However, we cannot manage to ensure the reform from the legal point of view and today one of the main spheres of our activity should be to ensure the legal grounds for the economic reform, so that everybody adheres to the adopted laws. The laws should, in a very civilized way, go through the Seimas. They should be amended. However, everybody must observe the law.

[Bacis] You are right about the laws. However, to my mind the most important point is the time when we will be able to physically see it, I mean when the people will be able to see plenty of goods in the shops, that the living is not so expensive, and then we will be able to say that the economic reform is yielding fruit.

[Veselka] I see the most complex problem in Lithuania in your words which is to privatize the man. [sentence as heard] And I see this in your words. How nice it would be if the government took care of you all. If only we could throw this kind of psychology out of our heads and realize that the state exists only in order that the nation can take care of the state as a basis for its long-term existence. However, most people think like this: I shall wait for the moment when the ministers come together and reduce the prices in the shops and fill them up with goods. There will be no such thing, and that is that! If we do not throw this primitive thinking out of our heads, that the state should take care of us instead of we ourselves taking care of the state, then we will never live to see the times when we can go to the shops and see them full of goods. [passage omitted]

We must set ourselves an objective. Lithuania must complete the reform in two or three years and show better results.

[Bacis] When can I come to see you and hear from you that, for example, the output of Lithuanian industry has increased, that more and cheaper fertilizers for Lithuanian agriculture have been produced.

[Veselka] This will be achieved in two or three years and not sooner, although in some branches some achievement has already been made. For example, not bad results have been achieved in the clothing industry. It is true that these goods are not sold in Lithuania. However, they are earning hard currency. The furniture and the fertilizer production industries are earning well.

However, in order that we can say that we are producing more and better and cheaper sooner, we must understand one more thing: Russia is not lithuania's enemy. We must take a completely different approach to Russia. Russia is and is becoming increasingly more so a component part of the world market. Let us throw out this one more stereotype that Russia is imperialism, that it is socialism, that it is communism. I do not deny that there is such a danger. However, we, as a free [state], we should realize that to us it is a component part of the market and the one which we know best of all. And, gentlemen, oil and timber does not stink, whether it is American, Arabian, or Russian. It just smells of oil. If we could get rid of this political primitivism soon, then I would reduce this period of two-three years when we will see the improvement by several months.

[Bacis] At the beginning of our conversation you mentioned the system of taxation. Perhaps in many spheres it acts as an obstacle today.

[Veselka] I could dispute this point. For example, we were talking to the Polish representative Balcerowizc, who is the architect of [Polish] reform. It appears that today the tax on profit in Poland is 40 percent, while ours is 29 percent. Our social security tax is only 31 percent, 1 percent goes to unemployment, and theirs is 46 percent. And it appears that Polish businessmen are able to work efficiently even under higher levels of taxation. They are able to make investments and produce goods cheaper and compete in the world market. Yet for some reason most of our businessmen are complaining that taxes are too high. [passage omitted] In general, most people do not like to pay taxes and do not pay taxes at all. It is important not to reduce existing taxes but to ensure that taxes are collected from everybody who has income. [passage omitted]